

LX

Libris

THE

MEMOIRS

Roberti OF *Smyth*
Mrs. *Lætitia Pilkington*,

WIFE TO THE

Rev. Mr. *Matth. Pilkington*.

Written by HERSELF.

Wherein are Occasionally intersperfed, Her

POEMS,

WITH

Variety of SECRET TRANSACTIONS
of some EMINENT PERSONS.

V O L. II.

*Curs'd be the Verse, how well so e'er it flow,
That tends to make one worthy Man my Foe;
Gives Vice a Sanction, Innocence a Fear,
Or from the pale-eye'd Virgin draws a Tear.* POPE.

——— *Longa est injuria, longæ
Ambages: sed summa sequar fastigia rerum.* VIRG. ÆN. I.

——— *Pudet hæc opprobria nobis,
Et dici potuisse, & non potuisse refelli.* OVID.

DUBLIN:

Printed for the Author, M DCC XLVIII.

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

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OF THE





The RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Lord Baron *Kingsborough*.

MY LORD,

TH O' Your Lordship
has been pleased posi-
tively to prohibit my Dedi-
cating this Volume to You,

A 2

yet

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yet as I had the following
Poem written, I could not
resist the Temptation of pre-
fixing it to my Work, which
I must rely on Your Good-
ness to Pardon, as

I really am,
With all possible Gratitude,
And Respect,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

Most Obliged,

Humble Servant,

L. PILKINGTON.

Ob ! KING, Live for Ever !

TO Thee, within whose Heaven-illum-
 in'd Breast,
 Resides each Virtue, which adorns the Blest ;
 'Tis bold Presumption to attune my Lays,
 Seraphic Notes shou'd hymn sublimer Praise ;
 Angels enthron'd, in Bliss with Rapture
 view
 Their own Divine Perfections, live in You :
 Say, while you wander, thro' the rural
 Shade
 By Sapphire Fount, or Flower-enamell'd
 Mead,
 By Wisdom nurs'd, by Contemplation fed,
 By both, to ev'ry Art and Science led ;
 While sacred Honour, that immortal Guest
 Lives in each Action of thy Life confest ;
 Wilt Thou, propitious, while I wake the
 String,
 Attentive listen to the Strains I sing ;
 No venal Lay I offer to impart,
 Accept the Rapture of a grateful Heart,
 Come, Inspiration, from thy Hermit-Seat,
 O, give me flowing Numbers sweetly great !
 Free as his Bounties, beauteous as his
 Frame,
 And pure and bright, as his unspotted Fame ;

For Nature, prodigal to KING, has given
All Gifts, admir'd on Earth, and dear to
Heaven ;

Then to *Hibernia*, lent this sacred Store,
Too blest *Hibernia*, can'st thou wish for
more :

Philosophers can, from the Noon-tide Sun,
Extract one solar Ray, tho' finely spun ;
Then, in that Ray, the various Colours
shew,

With which God paints the Rain-foretelling
Bow ;

May I, like them, presume, with happy
Art,

To trace, distinct, the Virtues of thy Heart,
Or turn, astonish'd, from the dazzling
Light,

And own it too intolerably bright,
When every Beam, does with full Force
unite.

Here did I pause, when, lo ! the Heaven-
born Muse,

Who, if aright invoc'd, will ne'er refuse
Her Aid, appear'd, and said, thy noble Choice
May better than the Muse inspire thy Voice ;
To me eternal Wisdom gave the Care
Of KING, no meaner Power cou'd inter-
fere ;

Pleas'd

[vii]

Pleas'd with the Task, I took the lovely
 Child,
 Blooming as Spring, with Looks serenely
 mild ;
 Hence flows beneficent his boundless Mind,
 The Joy, the Love, the Friend of Human-
 kind ;
 Modesty, Learning, Genius, Wit, and
 Taste,
 By Female Sweetness, manly Virtue grac'd ;
 Hence take their Source, oh Fav'rite of the
 Skies !
 To which, tho' late, triumphant shalt Thou
 rise ;
 There mix with Souls, like Thine, divinely
 pure,
 And taste the Rapture fitted to endure :
 She ceas'd, thanks heavenly Visitant ; I said,
 To Thee my Gratitude be ever paid ;
 For what, sufficient, may I render Thee,
 Who rais'd a PATRON that protected me,
 Who view'd my Anguish with a pitying Eye,
 When ev'n a Son, and Brother past it by.
 All-righteous Heaven, attend my ardent
 Pray'r,
 Make him thy constant, thy peculiar Care,
 Whose Mercy, like the Dews that bless the
 Ground,
 Silently falls, refreshing all around ;

While, with such winning Grace, his Boun-
ties flow,

They double all the Blessings they bestow ;
Touch'd with a painful Joy, the lab'ring
Heart

Struggles its mighty Transport to impart ;
Meanings crowd thick, the Tongue it's Aid
denies,

And springing Tears the Loss of Speech sup-
plies.

The P—rs of *Ireland* long have been a Jest,
Their own, and ev'ry other Climate's Pest ;
But KING shall grace the Coronet he wears,
And make it vie with *Britain's* noblest Stars ;
And when, in Time, to grace his nuptial
Bed,

Some chaste, illustrious Charmer he shall
wed :

May Love, and Joy, and Truth, the Pomp
attend,

And deathless Honour to his Race descend.

PRE-



P R E F A C E.

I Can't but let my Readers see my Vanity, in inserting the following Poems, written to me since I came to *Dublin*, and do assure them, I have as many Pacquets of a Day, as a Minister of State; some praising, and some abusing me; the best of which in my Praise, I have chosen out for their Perusal.

To Mrs. Pilkington.

Monday, April 4, 1748.

MADAM,

I F you can find a Place for the following Verses in your Second Volume,

x P R E F A C E.

Volume, I shall think myself highly honoured, who am with all Sincerity, &c.

I.

WHEN Times grown hoary, with a
thousand Years,
How must *Hibernia* laud thy Name?
Tho' now she seems to triumph in thy
Tears,
And almost glories in her Shame.

II.

Cou'd *Gaul*, or *Albion*, boast a Right in
Thee,
Who now must envy what we hate;
They'd prize that noble Worth, we seem to
flee,
And glory in so blest a Fate.

III.

Ye Sons, that put her Honour to the Test,
Assert the Glories of her Name,
And let her stand to distant Times redrest,
In Virtue spotless as in Fame.

P R E F A C E. xi

To Mrs. Lætitia Pilkington.

Clangill, July 16. 1748.

MADAM,

WHEN I read the First Volume of your Works, I was touch'd with a feeling Sense of your uncommon Misfortunes, and am convinced, the Villainy of a Pr--st, and Envy of some of your own Sex, gave Birth to all your Afflictions; and I'll venture to say, that the Dr. can't but secretly acknowledge,

That *Pallas* sow'd, within your Mind,
Seeds long unknown to Woman-kind,
For manly Bofoms chiefly fit,
The Seeds of Knowledge, Judgment,
Wit.

Now, Madam, in Return for the Satisfaction your Book gave me, I send you the following Essay, and if you like it,

I dif-

I disregard the Critics Frown,
And all the Quack-Bards of the Town.

I am your Friend,

BERNARD CLARKE.

HA I L, charming Fair, with low, but
friendly Lays,
I'll tune my Pipe, and vie to sing thy Praise,
Ambitious always to defend thy Fame,
And sing thy spotless, but much injur'd
Name :

Thy Story oft with pitying Soul I read,
And judge thy hapless Fate was hard in-
deed ;

Ungateful Man ! cou'd neither Wit nor
Art

Raise thy Compassion, or secure thy Heart,
When all the Joys, that please in human Life,
Shone bright in Her, and form'd a perfect
Wife ;

Respected and rever'd, where'er she went,
Discreetly gay, yet strictly innocent ;
Her sprightly Parts, Her lively Wit and
Sense

To none, but You, e'er gave the least Of-
fence ;

But,

P R E F A C E. xiii

But, cou'd the Serpent with the Lamb
agree ?

No more cou'd such a Heav'n-born Fair
with Thee ;

Ambition, Envy, acted each their Part
To foil what shou'd be Partner of thy
Heart :

Go, Abject Slave, you meanly spent your
Life,

In low Pursuits, you'd prostitute your Wife.
The * Dean first brought you from a low
Estate,

On his Account, admitted to the Great ;
How cou'd you then, that Honour of the
Age

Betray to Fury of a Party-Rage ?

Your Wife, too partial, wipes this from your
Door,

Tho' Thousands Thousands know the Fact is
sure :

Thus we may see th' ignoble Mind in you,
In spite of all her Sense or Art can do ;
Had but her Wit in ancient Days appear'd,
As *Homer's* now, it wou'd have been rever'd ;
Ah ! cou'd I, but like Thee, in gliding Strain,
Invoke the Muse, add Transport to the
Plain ;

To you, whose Wit inspires my softest
Song,

I'd speak, the Groves shou'd eccho it along ;
To

xiv P R E F A C E.

To sing LÆTITIA shou'd be all my Aim,
For deathless Numbers give immortal Fame;
Shou'd not some tender Pity move the Fair
To chase thy Grief, and dissipate thy Care;
Let them but figure all thy Woes their own,
And weigh th' invidious Tattle of the
Town;

But *Flavia*, reeling, from forbidden Game,
If rich, respected, tho' she's lost her Fame,
Cries, "Lud, I wonder who'd believe her
"Lies;

"I read her *Memores*, but tank God I've
Eyes;"

Tho', Ten to One, if she cou'd read her
Pray'rs,

Who gave herself those supercilious Airs;
Thus may you see, all those who suffer'd
Shame,

Are ever first to blast another's Fame;
But who can judge, that hears another groan,
Who ne'er had felt a Torment of their own;
And Souls, like Thine, must feel a deeper
Blow,

Than half the World have Sense enough to
know.

Oh! * KING, what Praise hereafter will
be Thine!
How will thy Bounty and thy Greatness
shine?

* Lord *Kingsborough*.

Who

P R E F A C E. xv

Who gave Relief with an unsparing Hand,
And wer't *Mæcen*as of *Hibernia*'s Land ;
This Deed shall foremost of thy Actions
live,

This shall immortal Praise and Honour give,
This shall remain on latest Times Records,
And KING be envied by the future Lords :
Shou'd I attempt to give her Honour Due,
I cou'd each Hour say something that was
new ;

But my faint Muse, unequal to my Aim,
I find fall short of the inspiring Theme ;
To praise such matchless Excellence divine,
Suits not such lowly humble Strains as mine ;
Cou'd I have Power to touch th' harmonious
String,

Or bid th' insphered Soul of *Milton* sing,
Or call down *Shakespeare* from the Realms of
Light,

To tell thy Story, or describe Thee right,
Then shou'd I triumph over Time and Fate,
And be hereafter counted truly great ;
Great he must be, indeed, who pictur'd well
All Graces Heav'n cou'd form, or Poet tell ;
Yet be content while You in Lustre shine,
And paint your Wrongs in soft and well-tun'd
Line ;

The World, tho' late, your Merit shall be-
friend,
And all your Sorrows in Applause shall end.

I hope

xvi P R E F A C E.

I hope the Gentleman prophesied,
for really I have had so many Mis-
fortunes, that it is now Time to
have a little Ease.



MEMOIRS





MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. PILKINGTON.

SO, being entered on a new Scene, I proceed : I got as far as *Chester* ; but, as it was Winter, the Stage-Coach set out but once a Week, namely, on *Monday* ; and as I did not land till *Tuesday*, I had near a Week to stay at an Inn, an Expence my poor Pocket could not well afford. But Providence sent me a timely Relief ; for as I was sitting with my Landlady, by her Kitchen Fire, a Gentleman came in, who knew me ; he was going to *Ireland*, and the Wind proving contrary, he was a Fellow Prisoner, as I may call it, with me ; and a very agreeable one he proved, for he never permitted me to pay a Farthing. My

Vol. II. B Landlady,

Landlady, who was really a Gentlewoman, and he, and I, diverted away the Time with Ombre, Reading, and Pratling, very tolerably: And as the Gentleman knew my Misfortunes, and had known all my Family, he very generously, and not without many Apologies, gave me three Guineas; a very seasonable Assistance: Thus we may see, that

*Each good the virtuous Soul itself denies,
The watchful Care of Providence supplies.*

By this I was enabled to travel. I learned with great Pleasure, that a Member of Parliament and two Gentlemen of the Law, had taken Places in the Coach, and hoped for an agreeable Journey; but sadly disappointed I was, for certainly three such Brutes I never saw; they affronted me every Moment, because I was born in *Ireland*; and I believe they had not the Cholick, for they made themselves very easy: But the worst Circumstance of all was, that they used to sit up drinking all Night, and forced me to pay my Club for their Wine, though I never even saw it.

They were great *Walpolians*, and many a Trick in the Elections did they relate before me, taking it for granted I was a Fool: At last, they very civilly demanded of me, what Business I had to *London*? So, resolving to divert



divert myself, I told them, I was going there in hopes *Sir Robert* would marry me; this made them very merry, they laughed at my Folly, and I at theirs. At length we picked up a *Welsh* Parson, of whom I had the Honour of making a Conquest, which afforded us great Entertainment, for about fifty Miles. I always permitted him to pay my Club; but, like a true Levite, he began to offer a little more of his Civility than I was willing to accept of; so, finding that would not do, he made me a Present of a Gingerbread-nut curiously wrapt up in white Paper, and after making me give him a Promise to write to him, he left us.

As my Fellow Travellers had observed his amorous Behaviour, and saw him deliver his Present, they earnestly requested to know what it was; so, to oblige them, I shewed it. When we came to *St. Alban's*, we were met by a Gentleman in a Coach and Six, whom they styled the great Mr. *Mid—ton* of *Chirk-Castle* in *Denbighshire*, who was related to them all; so they went into his Coach, and I got two Female Companions. However, we all baited at the same Inn, at *Barnet*, and this prodigious Man insisted on having the Ladies for his Guests; and, laying hold of my Hand, he swore that little *Hibernian* Nymph should dine with him; so up stairs we all went, where he enter-

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tained us with an Account of his ample Estate, saying, it was much larger than the Duke of *Bedford's*; but how unworthy he was to possess it, the Sequel will shew.

My Adventures with the *Welch* Parson made him laugh very heartily; and he insisted on my keeping my Promise in writing to him, assuring me he would take Care the Letter should go safe. So, by way of Amusement, I scribbled as follows:

S I R,

Your Ginger-bread, unbroken,
Remains a true Love Token.

I Am assured, by your honourable Countrymen, that you pass for a Wit in *Wales*; it is therefore my sincere Advice to you, never to quit it, lest the rest of the World should be malicious enough to refuse you your due Praise. As for the Favour you offered to me, why you offered it like a Priest, and I refused it like a Fool; if you write to me, direct, To the Right Honourable the Lady *W—lp—le*, in *Downing-street, Westminster*. I will endeavour to prevail on my Spouse elect to send you a Fiddle and a Hoghead of good *Otober*, to entertain your Parishioners every Sunday.

I am, sweet Sir Crape,

Yours.

Mr.

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 5

Mr. Mid—ton said, he thought I could read Men as well as Sir Robert. But now I

*Came the Reckoning, when the Feast was o'er,
The dreadful Reck'ning! and we smil'd no
more.*

For our Grandee made us pay our Club;
'tis true, indeed, he writ something to make
me amends, which was this.

My Charmer,

IF you'll leave a Line for me at Brown-
John's Coffee-House in Ormond-Street,
and give me a Direction where to find you,
you shall find a Friend in

J. M——n.

But really I never did, so we parted, and
I never saw him more. The Sample he had
given of the Narrowness of his Heart, was
sufficient to disgust me, and tho' I am not
fond of making national Reflections, yet I
would of all things never trust a *Welchman*,
lest, as *Falstaff* says of the *Welch* Fairy, he
should transform me into a Piece of toasted
Cheese.

At length I got to London, where after
having paid all Demands, I had three Gui-

B 3. neas

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neas left, with which the next Day I took a Lodging in *Berry-street, St. James's.*

I wrote to *Ireland* to no purpose it seem'd ; for I never got any Answer ; so in a very short Time I was in great Distress, and knew not what to do. Having heard Mr. *Ed—d W—p—le* was a very humane Gentleman, I wrote to him, and he sent me a Letter in return, wherein he promised to wait on me the next Evening, and accordingly came ; nay, and sate with me three Hours ; at the End of which Time he told me, he did not know how he could possibly be of any Service to me. I told him I had some Poems, which I intended to print by Subscription, and if he would do me the Honour of promoting it, it was all the Favour I desired.

— He answered, if he undertook it, he should certainly neglect it ; but however he would give me some Money ; so he pull'd out his Purse, and took out five Guineas. Would not any Person have then thought themselves sure of them ? but according to the old Proverb, *Many a thing falls out between the Lip and the Cup* : The Gentleman took a second Thought, and put the Guineas in his Purse again, assuring me, it was not convenient for him to part with them.

And, indeed, I believe he is a Beast without a Heart, for this is his constant Answer to every Person, as I have frequently observed,

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 7

served, when those whom he chose for Friends and Companions wanted but the smallest Assistance from him. So he

*For Poets open Table kept,
But ne'er consider'd where they slept;
Himself as rich as fifty Jews,
Was easy, tho' they wanted Shoes.*

Swift.

On this I arose, and told him, as I perceived it was not in his Inclination to do me any Service, I would no longer take up his important Time, and civilly dismissed him. Mr. Dodsley ventured to print *The Trial of Constancy*, by which I got about five Guineas, and a very much greater Happiness, the Favour and Friendship of the Poet Laureate. I was advised to enclose one of them to him, which I did, in as genteel a Letter as I knew how to write: The good Gentleman came to visit me; and did me every Act of Friendship in his Power; it is to his unwearied Zeal in my behalf, that I owe that I yet live to thank him; for,

*Had I not been by him supply'd,
I must a thousand times have dy'd.*

I must not here omit, that when the Poem was published, I enclosed two of them

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to Mr. *W—lp—le*, who wrote me a Letter of Thanks, and that was all ; *Mem.* he owes me Two Shillings.

As I wanted to make Interest with the Great, I took a Lodging in *St. James's Street*, exactly opposite to *White's Chocolate-house*, where happening to see Captain *Meade* go in, I wrote over to him, and he was so kind to give me an Invitation to his House, which was within a small Mile from *Hampton-Court*, a delightful Walk through *Bushy-Park* leading to it : This saved me a great deal of Expence, for as the Parliament was now broke up, *London* was quite empty, and Mr. *Cibber* being gone to *Tunbridge*, I could not, till the Return of Winter, hope to gain any Subscribers, so I went into the Country with great Pleasure.

The Captain had a very sweet Dwelling, a pretty Wife, and four lovely Children. We went to Church the following Sunday ; Dr. *Hales* was Minister of the Parish, and it was customary with him, whenever he saw a Stranger in his Congregation, to pay them a Visit ; so, after Evening Prayer, we were honoured with his Company. Captain *Meade* told him, I was his Sister Parson and Sister Writer ; a merry sort of an Introduction. The Doctor asked me, what I wrote ? and the Captain answered for me, that I was going to publish a Volume of
Poems

Poems by Subscription. I told the Doctor, my Writings might amuse, but his made the World the wiser and the better, as I had had the Pleasure of reading them. I turned the Discourse to Natural Philosophy, on which the Doctor gave us an Invitation to a Course of Experiments the next Day; tho' nothing I then saw was new to me, yet his Reflections on every Object were, as by them he demonstrated the Divinity; and, wrapt in holy Extasy, he soar'd above this little terrene Spot, and, like a true High Priest, led his Auditors up to the Holiest of Holies.

After this sacred Banquet, with which my Soul was so elevated, that I could not avoid paying him my Acknowledgments in I believe an enthusiastic Strain, we walked into the Garden, where we were entertained with some fine Fruit, Cream, Wine, &c. a rural Collation.

The Doctor asked me, if I had any printed Proposals for my Poems, to which he promised not only to subscribe himself, but also to use his Interest for me; I told him I had, and that I would give him some when I came to Prayers the next Morning.

But I could not sleep all Night, so at Day-break I arose, and walked into *Bushy-Park*; I sat down by the Side of a fine Cascade, and listened to the tunefully falling Waters so long, that methought they became

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came vocal, and uttered articulate Sounds ; till, lulled by them, I fell insensibly asleep, when suddenly I imagined the Water-Nymph to whom this Spring belonged, arose before me with a lovely Countenance, and a transparent azure Robe, and putting a Paper into my Hand, disappeared. I thought I read it ; and as I presently awoke, I remembered all the Lines ; so, having a Pencil and Sheet of Paper in my Pocket, I wrote them down.

To the Reverend Dr. H A L E S.

HA I L, holy Sage ! whose comprehen-
sive Mind,
Not to this narrow Spot of Earth confin'd,
Thro' num'rous Worlds can Nature's Laws
explore,
Where none but *Newton* ever trod before ;
And, guided by Philosophy divine,
See thro' his Works th' Almighty Maker
shine :
Whether you trace him thro' yon rolling
Spheres,
Where, crown'd with boundless Glory, he
appears ;
Or in the Orient Sun's resplendent Rays,
His setting Lustre, or his Noontide Blaze,
New Wonders still thy curious Search at-
tend,
Begun on Earth, in highest Heav'n to end :
O ! while

Mrs. PILKINGTON. II

O! while those God-like Labours you
pursue,
What Thanks, from Humankind, to Thee
are due!
Whose Error, Doubt, and Darkness, You
remove,
And charm down Knowledge, from her
Throne above.
Nature, to Thee, her choicest Secrets yields;
Unlocks her Springs, and opens all her Fields,
Shews the rich Treasure that her Breast con-
tains,
In azure Fountains, or ennamell'd Plains;
Each healing Stream, each Plant of virtuous
Use,
To Thee their Medicinal Pow'rs produce:
Pining Disease and Anguish wing their Flight,
And rosy Health renews us to Delight.

When You, with Art, the Animal dissect,
And, with the microscopic Aid, inspect,
Where, from the Heart, unnumber'd Ri-
vers glide,
And faithful back return their purple Tide;
How fine the Mechanism, by Thee dis-
play'd!
How wonderful is ev'ry Creature made!
Vessels, too small for Sight the Fluids
strain,
Concoct, digest, assimilate, sustain:

In

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In deep Attention, and Surprise, we gaze,
And, to Life's Author, raptur'd, pour our
Praise.

What Beauties dost Thou open to the
Sight,
Untwisting all the Golden Threads of Light!
Each Parent Colour, tracing to its Source,
Distinct they live, obedient to Thy Force!
Nought from Thy Penetration is conceal'd,
And LIGHT, Himself, shines to Thy Soul
reveal'd.

So when the Sacred Writings You display,
And on the mental Eye shed purer Day;
In radiant Colours, Truth array'd we see,
Confess her Charms, and guided up by Thee!
Soaring sublime, on Contemplation's Wings,
The Fountain seek, whence Truth eternal
springs.

Fain would I wake the consecrated Lyre,
And sing the Sentiments, Thou didst inspire!
But find my Strength unequal to a Theme,
Which asks a Milton's, or a Seraph's Flame!
If, thro' weak Words, one Ray of Reason
shine,
Thine was the Thought, the Errors only
mine.
Yet may these Numbers to thy Soul im-
part

The humble Incense of a grateful Heart.
Trifles,

Trifles, with GOD himself, Acceptance find,
If offer'd with Sincerity of Mind ;
Then, like the Deity, Indulgence show,
Thou, most like *Him*, of all his Works below.

After this pleasing Reverie, I returned home, and had sufficient Time to transcribe the Lines fair, and dress myself ere the Bell rung for Morning Prayer. As we were coming out of Church, I gave the Poem and some Proposals, made up in a Pacquet, to the Doctor ; who came in the Evening to visit us, and brought another Clergyman with him, who was the Minister of *Henley upon Thames* ; they both subscribed to me, and took a good many of the Proposals, which they disposed of, to Persons of Distinction.

So having got a little Money, and Captain *Meade* being commanded on Duty to the *Tower* for six Months, we all came to *London* ; where finding my Lodging empty, I once more returned to *St. James's*.

My good Friend, Mr. *Cibber* was my first Visitor : He had got about four Guineas for me ; and told me, he was assured, by a Gentleman of *Ireland*, who frequented *White's*, that my Husband was a Poet, and that all I had to publish, were only some Trifles I had stolen from him, which had greatly

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greatly injured me: "But (said he) to set
 "that Right, you must take some Subject,
 "that has never yet been touched upon,
 "dress it poetically, and send the Lines to
 "*White's*." This was really a hard Task;
 but as my Credit was now at Stake, I was
 obliged to exert myself, and the next Day
 sent him the following Lines.

To Mr. CIBBER.

WHEN You advis'd me, Sir, to chuse
 Some odd new Subject for the Muse,
 From Thought to Thought, unpleas'd I
 chang'd,
 Thro' Nature, Art, and Science rang'd,
 Yet still could nought discover New,
 Till, happily, I fix'd on You.
 Your Stoic Turn, and chearful Mind,
 Have mark'd You, out of all Mankind,
 The oddest Theme my Muse can find. }

Like other Men, you nothing do;
 The World's one Round of Joy to You.
 The Wise, the Weak, the Sot, the Sage,
 Your Hours can equally engage:
 Tho' Sense and Merit are Your Choice,
 You can with gayest Fops rejoice;
 Can taste them all, in Season fit,
 And match their Follies, or their Wit.

Truth

Truth has in you so fix'd her Seat,
Not all your Converse with the Great
Has yet misled you to Deceit.
Your Breast so bare, so free from Blame,
Why sure your Heart and Tongue's the
same!

Most Hearts the harder grow with Years,
But yours yet lends th' Afflicted Tears;
Has Merit pin'd in Want and Grief,
Your bounteous Hand has brought Relief.
To you, where Frailty shades the Soul,
One shining Grace commends the whole,
Can no Experience make you wiser,
Nor Age convert you to a Miser?

New too in other Points I find you,
Where modern Wits are thrown behind
you.

Some praise a Patron, and reveal him;
You paint so true, you can't conceal him:
Their gawdy Praise undue, but shames him,
While yours, by Likeness, only names him.
Not Wit that libels, makes you grave,
At what you smile, my Sense wou'd rave,
While jealous Bards by Dunces stung,
With Verse provok'd, aveng'd the Wrong.
With an uncommon Candour, you
Such Bards more humanly subdue:
Calm and compos'd, your conscious Spirit
Can celebrate with Praise their Merit:

Thus

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Thus yielding conquer; for sure Nature
Must feel such Praise sting worse than Satyr.

Still am I warm'd to sing your Oddness,
Your Singularity in Goodness!

When to the Wealthy and the Great,
Adorn'd with Honours and Estate,
My Muse forlorn! has sent her Pray'r,
Shunn'd were the Accents of Despair,
'Till your excited Pity sped her,
And with collected Bounties fed her;
Chear'd her sad Thoughts, like genial Spring,
And tun'd once more her Voice to sing.
Bear then her grateful Notes, and be
Yourself her Theme and Harmony.
Cou'd she, like yours, exalt her Lays,
Polite Artificer of Praise!
From the sweet Song you'd jealous grow,
And guard the Lawrel on your Brow.

If, which I know, these Facts are true,
Confess, at least, the Verse is new,
That publicly speaks well of you.

This met with a very favourable Reception, and Mr. Cibber shewed it to all the Noblemen at *White's*, as a Means to engage them to subscribe to me, which, to oblige him, many of them did; and, to make it public, Mr. Cibber inserted it in a Pamphlet

phlet of his own called the *Egotist*, or *Colley upon Cibber*.

The next Day a pleasant droll Gentleman, who was so old that he had been Page to King *James* when he was Duke of *York*, insisted on Mr. *Cibber*'s introducing him to me, which accordingly he did. This Gentleman, who was Colonel of the first Regiment of Foot Guards, had by Nature all that Education gives to others; neither had his Years in the least deprest the Vivacity, or Gallantry of his Spirit. He said a thousand witty things in half an Hour, and at last, with as great Gravity as his comic Face would admit of, said that he wish'd I would take him into keeping. I answered, I had really never seen any Person with whom I was better entertain'd, and, therefore, if he would make over all his real and personal Estate to me, and dispose of his Regiment, and give me the Money, I would keep him ——— out of it. He swore a good Oath, he believed me, and lik'd me for my Sincerity.——I could relate a Number of pleasant Stories of this old Gentleman; but as his Wit generally bordered on Indecency, and sometimes on Prophaness, they are not proper for a female Pen.

He used to hire me to write Love Letters to him, which, as a Proof of his being a young Man, he shew'd at *White's*; Lord

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W—m—th was curious to see the Writer, upon which he brought his Lordship, and Lord *Aug—stus F—tz R—y*, since dead, to visit me. They banter'd me on my Taste, in writing so many fine things to an old Fellow, when so many young ones, themselves in particular, would be proud of them—I assur'd their Lordships, I would oblige them on the same Terms I did the Colonel, who always paid me handsomely for my Compliments.

This turned all their Raillery on the Colonel, who with great good Humour confess'd the Truth. “Why Colonel, said Lord *F—z R—y*, you told us you supported this Lady.”——“Ay, return'd he, but you know I am an old Lyar.”

The Noblemen insisted on my telling them how much a piece the Colonel gave me for writing Billet-Doux to him. The Colonel answer'd that his Money had been fatal to my Family; for that he had lent my Uncle Colonel *Mead* twenty Guineas, one Night at the Groom Porters, who died the next Morning of an Apoplectic Fit, and so, said he, “out of pure Affection
“to my dear little one here, I am very cautious how I give her any; besides, added he very archly, I could
“not be convinced of the Sincerity of her
“Passion

"Passion for me, if she made any Demands on my Pocket."

Lord *W—m—th* asked me, how I approved of this Doctrine? I answered, The Colonel had so genteel and witty a manner of excusing his Avarice, that should he ever grow generous, we should lose a thousand Pleasantries.

Each of the Noblemen gave me a Guinea, by way of Subscription to my Poems; they pressed hard on the Colonel, for his Contribution, which, for the Reasons aforesaid, he absolutely refused.

This gave Occasion to the following Lines, which, lest the Colonel should not communicate, I inclosed to Lord *F—z—R—y*.

To the Hon. Colonel D—NC——BE.

SINCE so oft to the Great, of my Favours you boast,
When, you know, you enjoy'd but some Kisses at most;
And those, as you say, never ought to be sold,
For Love's too divine, to be barter'd for Gold.
Since this is your Maxim, I beg a Receipt,
To know, how without it a Lover can eat.

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For tho' the fine Heroes, we read in Ro-
 mances,
 Subsisted whole Weeks upon amorous Fan-
 cies;
 And yet were so strong, if those Writers say
 true,
 That Dragons, and Giants, some thousands
 they slew;
 Those Chiefs were of Origin surely divine!
 And descended from *Jove*, as direct as a
 Line.
 But in our corrupted, degenerate Days,
 We find neither Heroes, nor Lovers, like
 these:
 Our Men have scarce Courage to speak to a
 Lass,
 Till they've had a full Meal, and a chirrup-
 ping Glass.
 And so much in myself of the Mortal I
 find,
 That my Body wants Diet, as well as my
 Mind.

Now, pray, Sir, consider the Case of
 your Mistress,
 Who neither can kiss, nor write Verses, in
 Distress:
 For *Bacchus*, and *Ceres*, we frequently prove,
 Are Friends to the Muses as well as to Love.

Lord

Lord *Au—stus* did not fail to shew the Lines to all the Noblemen at *White's*, who heartily bantered the Colonel on his Generosity to his Mistress.

The next Day, as I was sprinkling some Flower-pots, which stood on very broad Leads, under the Dining-room Window, Colonel *D—nc—be*, the Duke of *B—lt—n*, and the Earl of *W—nch—ea* stood filling out Wine, and drinking to me : So I took up the Pen and Ink, full in their View ; and, as I was not acquainted with any of them, except the Colonel, I sent over to him these Lines :

YOUR rosy Wine
Looks bright and fine ;
But yet it does not chear me :
The Cause I guess,
Is surely this,
The Bottle is not near me.

You shew that Sight,
To give delight,
If I may truly judge ye :
But would ye move
My Wit, or Love,
I beg, Sir, I may pledge you.

Lord *W—nch—ea* bid the Colonel send me all the Wine in the House : “ Ah ! (said

“ the Colonel) that might injure her Health;
 “ but I will send her one Bottle of *Burgundy*,
 “ to chear her Spirits.” Accordingly the
 Waiter brought it; the Noblemen all gathered to the Window, so he filled me out a Glass, which, making them a low Reverence, I drank, and retired.

But the Colonel, resolving to have share, quickly followed his Bottle; he came in a desperate ill Temper; cursed the K—g, D— of C—l—d, the whole M—y, and me into the Bargain. I asked him, if whether giving me a Bottle of Wine, had grieved him so much? He said, No; but he had been fifty Years in the Army, and was but Lieutenant-colonel; and that the D— of C—l—d had put a young Fellow over his Head. He pulled down his Stocking, and shewed me where he had been shot through the Leg, at the Siege of *Lisle*; then he opened his Bosom, on which he had several Honourable Scars, and swore heartily, that, were it not in a Time of War, he would throw up his Commission. I could not but agree that his Resentment had but too just a Foundation; “ But, dear Sir, “ I had no hand in all this.” “ No (said he); but I did not know any Person, to “ whom I could speak my Mind freely, or “ who would bear my Peevishness, but “ you.” “ Well, Sir (said I), an you were “ as

“ as peevish as an Emperor, I’ll bear it all,
 “ since you please to bestow it on me. —
 “ But I believe we had as good drink our
 “ *Burgundy*, and we will new-model the
 “ Government according to our Fancies.”
 He sat very pensive, he said his Head ached,
 and rose in a surly sort of a manner, and
 went over to *White’s*.

Whether any thing he had met with
 there pleased him, I know not, but about
 Nine at Night, as I sat writing, I heard his
 Voice on the Stairs, crying, “ Poke after
 “ me, my Lord, poke after me.” So I bid
 my Maid, light the Colonel up: He brought
 with him his Grace of *M——lb——gb*, a
 lovely Gentleman; he presented him to me,
 by his Title, which was honoured by his
 wearing it. The *D——* saluted me; but
 what shall I now say! I think my boasted
 Constancy of Mind quite forsook me; I trem-
 bled at his Touch, and, though I knew not
 why, was more disordered at Sight of him,
 than ever I had been before in my Life:
 The Colonel asked me, what was the Mat-
 ter? I said, I believed I had drank too much
 Tea, which, joined to the unexpected Ho-
 nour he had now conferred on me, put me
 into a little Flutter.

His Grace laid hold of my Hand, and
 kissed it, saying, it was the sweetest Thing
 in Nature, to put a Lady into a little Hurry

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of Spirits, "and so, said he, Colonel, I shall meet you at *White's*, either to Night or to Morrow Morning; for I have a mind to have a little Chat with this Lady alone." The Colonel knew his Duty too well to disobey a *M—lb—gb*, he left us wishing his Grace Success.

Now, indeed, for the first Time, I was afraid of myself; but was infinitely more so, when his Grace told me, he had learn'd from the Colonel, that I was in some Distress, and, opening his Pocket-Book, presented me with a Bank Note on Sir *Francis Child* for Fifty Pounds.

This was the Ordeal, or fiery Trial; Youth, Beauty, Nobility of Birth, and unsought Generosity, attacking at once the most desolate Person in the World. His Grace, I believe guess'd at my Apprehensions, by the Concern which was but too visible in my Countenance, and generously assured me, that he was above making any hard Conditions, that I might look up with Cheerfulness, and not rivet my Eyes to the Floor, but consider him as a sincere and disinterested Friend.

This quite revived me, and gave me an unusual Flow of Spirits, which highly pleased my illustrious Benefactor: He desired I would write something merry to the Colonel, who, at his Departure charged me, not to
wrong

wrong his Bed. So to please his Grace, and
also to convince him I could write, I gave
him, in about ten Minutes, the following
Lines.

STREPHON to Night his *Chloe* told,
He had the Head-ach, and grew old ;
Tho' well she knew her artful Swain
But counterfeited Age and Pain,
To hide his cold declining Passion,
His Want of Love and Inclination ;
For *Chloe's* Face, so often seen,
Put her poor *Strephon* in the Spleen ;
Nor cou'd her Wit, or Neatness please him,
Or all her Smiles or Prattle raise him ;
He left the pensive Nymph alone,
His painful Absence to bemoan.

Strephon beware, lest in return,
With a new Flame your *Chloe* burn ;
Consider I have *Sp—n—r* seen,
And quickly lay aside your Spleen,
Or, by the God of Verse, I vow,
With Antlers I'll adorn your Brow ;
No City Knight shall boast a pair
More large, more branching, or more fair :
Their Horns are gilt, but yours shall be
As naked as a blasted Tree.

So, Sir, no more of your Deception,
For I am blest with quick Perception ;

Phæbus

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Phæbus has given me piercing Eyes,
To look thro' Falshood and Disguise;
Then lay aside this little Art,
I have, and I will keep your Heart.

His Grace was very well pleas'd with my Gaiety, and undertook to deliver the Letter himself; so we parted, each of us, I believe, satisfied with our selves, and our own Conduct.

I know at least I was; for upon calling my Heart to account for the Trouble it had given me, I found by the Symptoms, there was something very like Love had seiz'd it.

The Colonel came in the Morning, and brought with him Mr. *Tr—v—r*, Brother to the *D—fs* of *M—lb—gh*, whom he introduced to me, and then merrily asked me, if I was going to reward his constant tender Flame, with a great staring Pair of Horns? I told him he deserved them for his ill Temper; but, however, as he made me full amends by the Honour of making me known to so great and good a Man as he had recommended me to, I would take some Time to consider of the Matter.

Mr. *Tr—v—r* desir'd to know which of the *Sp—n—r's* it was, I threatned the Colonel with? I told him, I wrote any thing by way of Amusement; but either of them would serve my Turn.

The

The Colonel call'd me a Merry Madcap ; Mr. Tr—v—r assured me, he was at my Service, and would hornify the Colonel whenever I pleas'd. I told him, I was oblig'd to him for his kind Offer, and would certainly apply to him, if I found myself in any Distress ; and in the mean Time, I hop'd, as an earnest of his future Favour, he would be so kind as to subscribe to my Poems, which accordingly he did.

My Readers may now imagine, I was in a fair Way of growing rich ; but, indeed, it was far otherwise, as I paid a Guinea a Week for my Lodging, kept a Servant, was under a Necessity of being always drest, and had besides so many distressed Persons of my own Country, who did me the Honour to take a Dinner with me, and, in return for my Easiness, said every thing of me which they thought could injure, or expose me ; that being naturally liberal, and, till I heartily suffered for my Folly, no very great Oeconomist, I rather ran out than sav'd.

And, as I have thrown some sort of Reflection on the *English*, I must beg leave to be equally free with my own Country Folks. Take Notice, I except the Nobility and Gentry of each Kingdom, who, I really believe, in Honour, Valour, or Generosity of Spirit, are not to be match'd in any
Part

Part of the habitable Globe. Yet, partial as I may be to my native Country, the *English* and *Irish* seem to have different Characteristics: The lower Part of the People of *England* are blunt and honest; the lower Part of the People of *Ireland*, civil and deceitful: Nor did I ever suffer in *England*, either in point of Fortune or Reputation; but either by the Theft, or the Tongues of the *Irish*.

My Landlady came up one Morning very chearful, and told me her Daughter's Husband, Dr. T—rn—ll, who had not been to see her for two Years, on Account of some Difference they had, told her he would, as he was to preach at *St. James's Chapel* next Day, (being one of the Chaplains to his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*) take up his Lodging in her House that Night. I congratulated her upon it; but observing by her Looks she was under some Uneasiness, I ask'd her the Cause of it; after some Hesitation, and a Number of Apologies, she told me, she had no Accommodation for him, but by giving him her own Bed, and begg'd I would, for a Night, give her leave to sleep with me and my Maid, to which I readily consented; but recollecting what a miserable Bed she had, in a dark Closet, very unfit for a Gentleman to lie in, I told her, I would, with great Pleasure, leave my
my

my Apartment for the Doctor, which was, as may be presum'd by the Price, a genteel one, and for a Night take up my Residence with her. She seem'd overjoy'd at the Proposal, and as I had some little Trifle to buy, I went out, and did not return till about Six in the Evening, so not meeting any body in the Way below Stairs, I went up to my own Apartment, where I found the Doctor reading, and the old Gentlewoman fast asleep.

I begg'd pardon for my Intrusion, and the old Dame told him how much he was indebted to my Complaisance in quitting my Apartment to oblige him with it. I could have wish'd, she had been silent in this particular; for as she had not apprized him of it before, he was too polite to suffer it, nor could any Entreaties of mine prevail on him to accept my Offer.

A short while after he went down Stairs, he sent his Compliments up, and begg'd I would lend him a Book to amuse himself till Bed-time, so being willing to cultivate the good Opinion he seem'd to have conceiv'd of me, I sent him my own Poems in Manuscript, which, pardon my Vanity, did not fail to confirm it.

The next Day, which was *Sunday*, as soon as Afternoon Service was over, he very kindly paid me a visit, and seem'd so well pleas'd with

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with my Prattle, that it was Midnight before either of us thought of Repose : But I do assure my Readers, his Mother-in-law kept us Company.

He entertained me with an Account of whatever he had met with curious, in his Travels : His Remarks, on every Subject, were delivered with Modesty and Judgment, in a flowing and elegant Style. He was so kind to promise me the Favour of taking a Dish of Coffee with me in the Morning, which produced a merry Adventure.

The Noblemen at *White's*, having heard that I was married to a Clergyman, and seeing one walking to and fro in my Dining-room, supposed it must be the very identical Parson, and that he was come to make up Matters with me ; so none of them would venture over, lest it should incur his Displeasure against me ; but Colonel *D—nc-be*, whose Curiosity was up, resolved, at a Distance to reconnoitre the Ground, and bring them a faithful Account of the Enemy's Situation, for so he styled the Parson.

There was a very grand Milliner's Shop next Door to my Lodging, from whence I receiv'd a Message, that a Lady, just come from *Ireland*, desired to speak with me ; upon which I immediately went, full of Hope to receive some Account of my Children : I there found the Colonel, who told me,

me, he was the Lady ; and, with his usual Gaiety, added, that if I question'd his Sex, I need but permit him to be my Bedfellow for a Week, and I should never know any thing to the contrary.

I answer'd, I really believ'd him ; inasmuch as I had known a Gentleman, young enough to be his Grandson, who had liv'd with me in all the peaceable Innocence of a Man of Threescore, like a civil careless Husband, as he was.

As the Colonel was acquainted with my History, he laugh'd heartily, and said, " He must be some damn'd Parson, for nobody (said he) but one belonging to the Church could have had half that Continency. But, my dear little one (for that was the Name he always call'd me), I have some News to tell you ; I desire you may brush up your Countenance, your Fire, and yourself, because you are likely to have some very grand Visitors To-morrow, no less than Mr. *St—b—e*, the Earl of *W—ncb—ea*, and his Brother Mr. *F—ch*."

The Colonel then told me the Reason of his sending for me in that manner was, that he had observed a Parson walking in my Room ; and ask'd, who it was ? I told him, it was Dr. *T—bull*, no way related to me.

As

As this Adventure with the Clergyman afforded great Matter of Diversion at *White's*, I cannot help here relating another. I was in very great Distress, and was advised to apply to the then Lord Archbishop of *York*, now, by the Grace of God, Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*; I say, by the Grace of God, because I believe he never was yet excell'd by any of the primitive Bishops; a Person, in whom the Beauty of Holiness fully appears. I went to his House, in *Kensington-Square*, and, to my infinite Surprise, had free Access to his Grace, without even a Question being asked: I presented him with the following Lines.

This Poem was written just at the Beginning of the Rebellion, in which his Grace, like a true Son of the Church militant, had nobly taken up Arms in the Defence of Liberty, Property, and the Protestant Religion.

Having been obliged to the Right Honourable *Henry Pelham*, I thought it not improper to include two such great and eminent Persons in one Poem, which was as follows.

To

To his Grace, the Lord Archbishop of
YORK.

AS God, who now does, as in Times
of old,
His high Behests to righteous Men unfold ;
And from thick Mists, purging the visual
Ray,
Beams on his chosen Sons celestial Day ;
Late to the pious Prelate, YORK, reveal'd,
What, from the Sons of *Belial*, lay con-
ceal'd ;
The Many flown, with Insolence and Wine,
Unfit, such Ears, to hear of Things Divine.

Behold, oh chosen Messenger of Grace !
Said God, the Wickedness of human Race :
Britain, behold, my once-lov'd fav'rite
Isle,
Lo, all Impurities her Face defile !
Why are there Pray'rs, or public Fasts pro-
claim'd ?
My Pow'r is mock'd at, and my Word blas-
phem'd ;
Think they, vile Worms ! with Arts, or
glozing Lies,
To 'scape my Vengeance, or deceive my
Eyes ?

D No;

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No ; as to Idol Lusts their Bodies bow,
So shall their Limbs the foreign Fields be-
strew,

Nay, even the proud Metropolis, shall feel
The red-hot Vengeance, and the murd'rous
Steel.

Then, holy YORK, the Lord of Life be-
spoke :

Oh, gracious God ! this dread Decree re-
voke ;

Wilt Thou, with Wisdom, Justice, Mercy
crown'd,

Alike the Virtuous, and the Vile confound ?
Twenty, perhaps, in *Britain* may'st Thou
find,

Who keep thy Laws, and write them on
their Mind ;

All, sure, shall perish, by thy mighty
Word,

But wilt Thou speak in Wrath ? far be it
from Thee, Lord ;

To him, JEHOVAH, by Myself, I swear,
For Twenty's Sake, the Kingdom will I
spare :

Oh, be not angry, while I plead again,
Perhaps, not Twenty may be found, but

Ten ;
Ten Men, whom no Temptation can sub-
due,

True to Religion, to it's Altars true ;

To

To him, JEHOVAH, as thy Soul doth live,
Find me but One, and *England* I forgive.

View then, oh Lord! yon Minister of State,
See him, in ev'ry Action, Good and Great,
Stemming Corruption, with an out-stretch'd
Hand ;

Who, but Himself, the Torrent can with-
stand ?

See Him, like *Nile*, diffusing Bounty round,
To bless a barren, an ungrateful Ground ;
Thro' various Channels, Pleasure to impart,
To raise the Fall'n, to chear the dying
Heart ;

Too oft, alas ! in the translucent Wave,
Do Crocodiles and wily Serpents lave,
Studious to poison the delightful Stream,
Which unpollute flows on ;——and mindful
whence it came,

Conscious of Thee, it's sacred hidden Source,
To re-unite thy Bounty, bends it's Force.

Wisely thou speak'st, the living Lord re-
ply'd,
Nor be thou, righteous Advocate, deny'd ;
Superior Worth arrests the lifted Rod,
So dear is Virtue in the Sight of God ;
Nor will I Vengeance on the Guilty take,
But *England* spare, for YORK and PELHAM's
Sake.

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I told the Servant, when I delivered them, it was not a Petition : He said, if it were, his Grace never refused one ; and shewed me into a handsome Drawing-Room. In a few Minutes, his Grace entered, with a sweet and placid Air ; but look'd so young, that I never once imagin'd him to be the Archbishop, having join'd the associate Idea of Wrinkles, Avarice, and Pride, to that Title, —in which I found myself, happily for once, mistaken. As it was early in the Morning, he said, he was sure I had not breakfasted, and bid one of the Servants bring some Tea, and desire his Cousin to come, and keep the Lady Company : As it was near half an Hour before I saw her, his Grace asked me, who I was ? I answered, which was Truth, I was a Gentleman's Daughter, of the Kingdom of *Ireland* ; that I had, when I was very young, been married to a Clergyman, that I had three Children living : His Grace, taking it for granted, that I was a Widow, which Mistake it was, by no Means, my Interest to clear up, demanded of me, what I had to support us ? I answered, Nothing but Poetry ; he said, that was a Pity, because, let it be ever so excellent, Genius was seldom rewarded, or encouraged ; I very gayly repeated the Dean's Lines :

What

*What Hope of Custom in the Fair,
When not a Soul demands the Ware?
When you have nothing to produce,
For private Life, or public Use.*

Swift's Rhapsody.

His Grace could not avoid smiling, as he plainly perceived by the Chearfulness, and Freedom of my Behaviour, and by my only saying, Sir, to him, that I was ignorant of his Dignity. But the Entrance of his Relation, a well-bred Lady, of about fifty Years of Age, who, as his Grace is a Bachelor, managed his domestic Affairs, threw me into inconceivable Confusion, as I then plainly perceived, I had been very familiarly chatting with so great a Man.

I made my Apology, in the best Manner I could, and, as he was truly sensible, that I neither intended, nor meant Disrespect to him, he easily pardoned me: But, as we drank Tea, said, he wished my Mistake had but continued a little longer, that he might have had the Pleasure of hearing me unawed and uncontrouled. I own I was quite abashed at so odd a Circumstance, for while I imagined his Grace to be perhaps a Chaplain to the Lord Archbishop of York, I said any thing without Reserve; but, of a sudden, found

D 3

my

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my Spirits fail, which brought *Shakespear's* Lines into my Mind :

*And what have Kings, that Privates have
not too,*

Save Ceremony, general Ceremony ?

And what art thou, thou Idol Ceremony ?

*What kind of God art thou, that sufferest
more*

*Of mortal Grievs, than do thy Worship-
pers ;*

*What are thy Rents ? What are thy Com-
ings in ?*

Oh Ceremony ! shew me but thy Worth ;

What is thy Soul of Adoration ?

*Art thou, ought else, but Place, Degree,
and Form,*

Creating Fear and Awe in other Men ?

*Wherein thou art less happy, being fear'd,
Than they in fearing thee.*

His Grace was so humane, to make me a handsome Present at my Departure, and assured me, he would always be a Friend to me.

However, I did not make a second Application to him, till such Time as the Royal Bounty is to be petitioned for, which is at *Christmas*, though it is not distributed till *Easter* ; as I knew, at that Season of the Year, it was impossible for me to be at *Kensington*, e'er his Grace would be at *Westminster*,

minster, I waited at the Door of the Robing-Room, till I was almost frozen, holding a Petition, inclosed in a Letter, in my Hand ; a Gentleman, who is Door-keeper to the House of Lords, taking Compassion on me, told me, I had better come into the Lobby, an Offer I readily accepted of, and sat down in a Window : There were several Noblemen, most of whom knew me by Sight, walking in it, as the House was not yet met. The first Prelate who entered, was the Lord Bishop of *Norwich*, a venerable Gentleman, whose graceful grey Hairs the Hand of Time had silvered ; as he past by, I made him a Courtesy, on which he stopt, and, with great Civility, ask'd me if that Letter was for him ; I answered, it was for his Grace of *York*, on which, he very kindly wished me Success. His Grace next entered, and, with his wonted Goodness, asked me, where I had been ? Added, that it had been a great Loss to me, that he did not know where to find me ; and accepting of my Letter, said, he hoped, I had there given him a proper Direction ; so bowing, as fast as I courtesied, he went to take his Seat at the right Hand of that Power he had so nobly supported, and, no doubt, will, at the last great Day, having truly approved himself *Christ's* faithful Soldier, and Champion, fighting under the sacred Banners of the

Captain of his Salvation ; hear those comfortable Words, *Well done, thou good and faithful Servant, enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord.*

As the Earl of *Ch—ster—ld* heard every Word his Grace spoke to me, he made himself very merry at *White's*, telling Mr. *Cibber*, and Colonel *D—nc—be*, that I was true to the Gown, and delivered a Billet-doux to the handsomest, politest, and bravest Prelate in *Europe* ; that I had given him a Direction where to find me, and highly applauded my Choice.

But no Virtue is above the Reach of a little pleasant Raillery, and as some of the Noblemen demanded an Explanation of this Affair, I, with my usual Sincerity, told them the Truth, on which they all agreed in praising his Beneficence and Affability, and the handsome Manner in which he bestowed his Bounties.

I hope, if these *Memoirs* should ever fall into his Grace's Hands, who is an universal Reader, he will pardon me for using his Name, which I shall never do, but with the utmost Respect and Gratitude.

As I had imagined his Grace to be Lord High Almoner, I addressed him as such, and waited on him again at *Westminster* ; his Grace told me, the B—h—p of *S—sb—y* had been so kind to accept of my Petition,
and

and that I must wait on him the next Morning, at his House, in the Temple : So accordingly, I went, in full Spirits, imagining, on the Recommendation of so excellent a Person, I should both have a civil Reception, and also my Desire answered.

It snowed very hard, and I knocked several Times, e'er I could gain Admission ; at length, an old Porter ventured to turn the unoiled Hinges a little, which grated very harshly, and seemed to partake of the Spirit of their unhospitable Master, who, according to my Countryman's Bull, opened the Door to keep the People out, for this was fully verified here ; he asked me, what I knocked so often for ? and being, I suppose, doubtful that I might steal one of the Oak Chairs in the Hall, shut it again in my Face ; the Inclemency of the Air, and the Vexation of my Mind made me give a thundering Rap, the Door was once more opened, and I assured the Porter, if he would be so kind as to deliver that Letter for me to his Lord, to whom I was recommended by his Grace of York, I would give him Half a Crown, which Promise of a Perquisite softened him into Consent, for, as Mr. Gay observes, that

Reason with all is prevailing.

He

He took the Letter into the Parlour, when presently, an old Man, with a most unprelatical Countenance, for it was full of Bubuckles, and Knobs, and Flames of Fire, came out, with my Letter in his Hand, and, with an imperious Voice, demanded of me, whether I wrote it? As the Times were full of Violence and Blood, it being, as I observed, at the Beginning of the late Rebellion, I stood confounded, and knew not what Answer to make, which he observing, asked me, was my Name *Meade*? To which, answering in the affirmative, he cried, "Yow are a Foreigner, and we have
 " Beggars enow of our own:" "No, my
 " Lord, returned I, I was born in *Ireland*,
 " which is not a foreign Country, but
 " equally a Part of his Majesty's Dominions
 " with *Great-Britain*;" "Why, said he,
 " very politely, yow lie; but as you say
 " yow are in Distress, there's Half a Crown
 " for yow;" I thanked his Lordship, and turning to the Porter, told him, as I had given him some Trouble, I hoped he would accept of that Part of the Royal Bounty, which had been promised to me; his Lordship was pleased to tell me, I was a saucy, proud, impertinent Person; which having neither any farther Hopes or Fears about him I little regarded.

All

All the Way Home, as cold as it was, and as much vexed as I was at the old Br-te's Behaviour, I could not avoid laughing at his odd Figure, so much resembling that of the *Spanish Friar*, where

His great Belly swagger'd in State before him, and his little gouty Legs came limping after, oh, he is a huge Tun of Divinity! and were he any way given to Holiness, I would swear by his Face; my Oath should be, by this Fire; but he is indeed, but for the Fire in his Face, the Son of utter Darkness; oh! he is a perpetual Triumph; an everlasting Bonfire!

Then again I thought of Doctor Swift's Lines:

*G—d d—— me, they bid us reform and repent;
But, Z——ds, by their Looks, they never keep Lent.*

I hope the Reader will pardon me, for inserting Oaths, as I have so great an Authority to quote for them.

As the Parliament did not sit during the Holydays, I waited on his Grace of York, who immediately gave me Audience: He asked me, what Success I had with the Lord Almoner; and as I had sped marvellous ill.

ill-favouredly, I related every Circumstance, as near as I could remember them, of our Conversation, One, in particular, which I before omitted, and was, that he said, "Wou'd the Lord Archbishop of *York* speak to yow, Woman?" His Grace smiled, and said, "It was the first Time he ever learn'd it was beneath the Dignity of a Bishop to speak, even to a Beggar, as Humility was their best Ornament:—" "Well what more?" "Not much, my Lord, only he demanded, if I knew no other Person, besides your Grace, to commend me to him? And as I really was convinced, I had brought him my Credentials from the highest, I did not use any other Name:—" By this Time, the Lady before-mentioned came to Breakfast, and I was obliged to relate the Story to her; they both laughed,—— and his Grace assured me, the B—h—p of S—*sb*—y was a very honest Man;——I told him, "I did not suspect him to be a Pick-pocket; but that I looked on that to be but a very moderate Praise, where every other social, and Christian Virtue was required:—" He said, I made nice Distinctions; but he himself would take Care of the Affair, and so he put a couple of Guineas into my Hand, on which, I said, "God Almighty bless your Grace;" which again made him smile,

smile, and myself also, on Reflection, that, instead of imploring his Blessing, I had given him mine. I returned to *London*, as I ought also from this long Digression, to relate what passed between me, and the Noblemen, whom Colonel *D—nc—be* said would come and visit me.

When I expected three, but one came, a very old gouty Gentleman, whose Name I do not think proper to insert; the rest had intended me the same Favour, but he insisted, it seems, on coming alone, which, after a little Raillery, they permitted him to do; but protested, that, if he stayed long, they would follow him; — though our Conversation was entirely about indifferent Matters, during an Hour he stayed with me, yet he and I was as heartily bantered, and I had as many Examinations about his Behaviour to me, as if he had been a young, gay, gallant Gentleman; the Reason of which was, that he used to reprove others, for their Intemperance, or Indecency: So they took it into their Heads he was a fly Sinner, and would have bribed me highly to tell a Lie of him; I assured them, provided they would but give me leave to inform him of it, I would say what they pleased; for I was fully of Opinion, that, if a Lie would do me Grace, he would permit me to gild it with the happiest Terms I had.

They

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They told my Story to the good old Gentleman, who kindly sent me over three Guineas, by the Hand of my honoured Benefactor, Mr. Cibber.

I was at this time applied to, by Mr. V—t—r, to write an Ode on the Princess of Wales's Birth-day, which, as he kept a Tea-Warehouse in *Pall-Mall*, near her Court, would, he said, at least, gain him her Royal Highness's Custom; so to oblige and serve him, as I had really done, when he was in very low Circumstances in *Ireland*, some Years before. I wrote as follows:

An ODE on the Birth-day of her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES, intended for Music.

LIGHT of the World, with purest
Beams adorn
The Front of Heav'n, and gild the sacred
Morn!

Come from thy Chamber, in the East,
In richest Gold, and Purple, drest,
Bright, as the Royal Fair, who on this Day
was born.

Say, in all thy glorious Round,
Hast thou so much Beauty found?
Tho' Nature spreads, for Thee, her
Charms,
Her fairest Store of finish'd Forms,
The

The radiant Gem, the flow'ry Race,
Hast thou beheld such perfect Grace,
As Great *Augusta's* Looks display?
Blooming as rosy Spring, and fair as early
Day.

AIR.

Glad Zephyrs on your downy Pinions bear
The joyful Tidings thro' the balmy Air,
That Heav'n, indulgent to *Britannia's* Isle,
Created for her lov'd, her God-like
Heir

This matchless Virgin, this illustrious
Fair,
In whom the Virtues, and the Graces smile.
What Joy, oh Royal Youth! was Thine?
When You beheld the Nymph Divine!
Like *Venus*, rising from the Sea,
While round officious *Cupids* play;
Neptune confess'd, his Breast, before,
So rich a Treasure never bore;
He hush'd the noisy Winds to sleep,
And smooth'd the Surface of the Deep.

Hymen, quick, thy Taper light,
Join, whom Love before had join'd,
And in blissful Bonds unite

Heart to Heart, and Mind to Mind,
The noblest Pair, that, ever yet,
In sweet connubial Transports met!

AIR.

AIR.

As when the Sun awakes the Year,
 And bids the Blooms their Sweets disclose,
 In vernal Lustre, rob'd appear
 The Lilly, and the new-blown Rose;
 So, from this pure, this hallow'd Flame,
 Behold the num'rous Offspring rise
 Of future Bards, the blissful Theme,
 And Rapture of a Nation's Eyes.

Let Hymns of Praise to Heav'n ascend,
 For this propitious Store,
 Oh, still the Royal Race defend!
 And *Britain* asks no more.

What Success this met, I know not; but
 Mr. *V-et-r* soon after applied to me for a
Lilliputian Ode, on the Birth-day of His
 Royal Highness Prince GEORGE, which I
 gave him as follows:

NATURE wake,
 Muses speak,
 Cloath the Spring,
 Touch the String,
Cupids sport,
 Round the Court,
 Like the Prince,
 Charms dispence,

Whose

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 49

Whose early Ray,
Gives *Britain* Promise of resplendent
Day.

The flow'ry Prime,
Delights a Time,
The hopeful Bloom,
Sheds rich Perfume,
Then Fruits appear,
To crown the Year ;
So, lovely Boy,
Thy Spring employ,
That thy sweet Youth
Be crown'd with Fruits of Wisdom, Vir-
tue, Truth.

Ye, to whose Care,
Britannia's Heir
Is now consign'd,
To form his Mind ;
O to your Trust,
Be firmly just ;
Let Flatt'ry ne'er
Infect his Ear,
So shall he be
Worthy to rule a People, Brave and Free.

Oft let him trace
His God-like Race !
Their noble Story,
Inspiring Glory !

E

His

His Parents Eyes,
 With glad Surprize,
 Shall view a Son,
 Worthy their Throne,
 And *Albion* blest
 The Royal Progeny's desir'd Increase.

I know not what Reward the Gentleman got for these, but he gave me five Shillings; and as since my Return to *Ireland*, he was twice so civil to write me Word, I was a Fool; I must insist on it, he was a much greater, to apply to a Fool for Wit.

And, if he disputes these Facts, let him but finish the Comedy of *Le Païsän Parvenu* in the same Stile I wrote the first Act for him, and I will own myself to be the Dunce, he so freely calls me.

I must here observe, that the following Poem, written when I first went to *London*, which he undertook to have printed for me; he very modestly assured every Person was of his own Composition.

A View

A View of the present State of MEN and THINGS.

A Satyric Dialogue between the Poet and his Friend.

In the Year 1739.

F. **W** RITING a Satire? P. If I should
what then?

F. 'Tis the most dang'rous Province of the
Pen;

Example more Discretion ought to teach,
Examples move beyond what Prelates preach:
Be warn'd, my Friend,—write Satire!—
pray desist,

You see what Fate attends the * Satirist.

P. If honest Satire, these licentious Times,
Is look'd on as the worst of human Crimes,
If all are Libellers, who dare proclaim
The Fraud of Courts, or brand a guilty
Name:

The Muse, sworn Friend to Truth, with
Fear essays

To scourge the Base, or give the Virtuous
Praise;

Tho' these the wholesome Means, by Heav'n
assign'd

To awe the Vile, or raise the worthy Mind.

E 2

F. Yes

* Mr. Whitehead.

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F. Yes Panegyric may be safely writ ;

P. It may, if Bards will prostitute their
Wit,

To varnish Faults, or gild a Knave's Deceit,
Or prove a Title, makes a Villain great ;
But Virtue plac'd, in it's Meridian Light,
Hurts the weak Eye, and pains the Courtier's
Sight ;

Thus shou'd the Muse a Patriot's Worth
proclaim,

And crown her *Stanhope* with undying Fame,
They take Offence, and think you thus def-
cant,

To shew Mankind the Qualities they want.

F. Trust me, their Rashness merits no Ex-
cuse,

That fall from Satire into gross Abuse,
Vice may be sham'd by proper Ridicule,
But where's the Wit of calling Dunce and
Fool ?

P. Was it not Truth ? F. Admit it e'er so
true,

Compassion was to human Weakness due ;
When Crimes are wanting Anger to provoke,
An Aim at Greatness seems an envious Stroke ;
Some, like *Drawcanfir*, fall on Friend, and
Foe,

And no Distinction in their Fury know.

With

With decent Care, Scurrility avoid ;
 Secure in Praise, your Pen may be em-
 ploy'd,
 And ev'ry gen'rous Pleasure full enjoy'd,
 P. Well, if Encomiums Approbation gain,
 For once, I'll try the Panegyric Strain.

Blest be the Man, whose independent Mind,
 No Ties, but those of sacred Honour bind ;
 Whose ample Fortune ev'ry Good supplies,
 Sought by the Just, the temperately Wise ;
 Oeconomy his Freedom's best Support,
 Sets him above Temptation from a Court ;
 No Bribe he takes, that Freedom to controul,
 No Pension, to enslave his nobler Soul ;
 He scorns to fill a Statesman's servile Train,
 And looks on high-plac'd Guilt with just
 Disdain ;
 For Him, the Muse shall strike the sounding
 String,
 And Fame, her ever-verdant Laurels, bring.

Unlike *Favonius*, who, with ev'ry Vice,
 Ruin'd a princely Fortune in a thrice ;
 His Indigence soon taught him to repair
 To Court,— for Bankrupt Peers find Shelter
 there :
 He bows to *W*——e, whispers to his
 Grace,
 Then humbly begs a Pension, or a Place ;

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The Pension's your's, my Lord,—but mind
— this Note,

'Tis but a short Direction, how to vote.
Hard Terms ! but Luxury must be supply'd,
He sells his Virtue to support his Pride !

F. Softly, my Friend, — you quit the Task
assign'd,

Which, to the Praise of Merit, was confin'd :
Bold Truths, like these, a Punishment may
bring,

Incense a M——r, perhaps a ——
P. As, in a Picture, Light is to be shewn
But by the Force, and Strength of Shade
alone ;

So Virtue's radiant Lustre shines most clear,
When Vice, by Contrast, makes her Charms
appear ;

Who sees a *Burleigh*, in *Eliza's* Reign,
With *Britain's* Thunder, shake the Realms
of *Spain*,

And, truly zealous in his Country's Cause,
Protect her Trade, her Liberty, her Laws ;
Who, but must kindle into honest Rage !

And curse the —— F. Hold, — this par-
tial Wrath assuage ;

Do you consider, what a Risque you run,
Or, are you resolute to be undone ?

At Courts you rail, at Courts you take Of-
fence,

Unmindful of the Good deriv'd from thence.

P. 'Tis

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 55

P. 'Tis true, from thence proceeds the
Royal Youth,

The God-like Friend of Liberty, and Truth;

The purest Bounty of indulgent Heav'n,

In FREDERICK's Virtues is to *Albion* given;

Muse! at that Name, exalt thy tuneful
Voice,

And glory in thy elevated Choice,

Patron of Learning! Cherisher of Arts!

Fix'd is thy Empire in our grateful Hearts;

Already we the blissful Scene survey,

While Hope, prophetic, paints thy future
Sway;

Honour, the Guardian of thy Throne shall
stand,

And Plenty pour her Treasures thro' the
Land;

Free, on the Wings of Winds, our Ships
shall roam,

And safely bring their far-sought Riches
Home;

Wide o'er the World, *Britannia's* Fame
shall spread,

And pale *Iberia* sink with guilty Dread.

Who now—*F.* Nay pause,—Check your
advent'rous Strain.

P. Then guess the rest. *F.* I do, alas! too
plain.

E 4

P. *Jugurtha,*

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P. *Jugurtha*, for his Crimes, arraign'd at
Rome,

The Senate brib'd, and went triumphant
Home ;

Yet, on it's Pride, cast back a scornful Eye,
And wish'd some Merchant wou'd the Nation
buy.

F. Is the Man mad, to ramble wildly thus !
What has *Jugurtha*, pray, to do with us ?

P. Faith, nothing, but the Story struck my
Mind,

Tho' it no Application here can find ;
For shou'd seducing Gold so far prevail,
To set a Nation's Liberty to Sale ;
No trading Purchaser can *Britain* fear,
Our Merchants Poverty secures us here.

F. Why will you bring such Scenes to pub-
lic View ?

Come, come, your Scheme of praising
Worth, pursue,

P. No Power of Verse can Virtue's Merit
raise ;

Who can add Lustre to it's Noon-tide Blaze ?
See it, from STAIR, break forth with Rays
Divine,

And round the learned Head of STANHOPE
shine ;

From COBHAM's Mind, we hail it's beau-
teous Beams,

And CARTERET kindles with it's hallow'd
Flames ;

While

While W——E turns, astonish'd, from
the Sight,

And sickens at the pure æthereal Light ;

Or, vainly hopes it's Absence to supply,
By glitt'ring Star, and String of Azure Dye ;
Those Ornaments which grace the Good and
Brave,

To sharper Ridicule——expose the Slave :
Statesmen, like Meteors, vulgar Earth-born
Things,

Rais'd by the strong, attractive Force of
Kings ;

Splendid they shine, in Fortune's Summer-
Sky,

Till, falling, all their short-liv'd Glories
die ;

But Worth, like the refulgent Orb of Day,
Shall unexhausted Excellence display.

F. Relapsing still ! *P.* When I conceal the
Name,

I, sure, a vicious Character may blame.

F. No ; Malice may that Character apply.

P. Then Malice makes the Libel, Friend,
not I ;

But, see, to Praise I tune the golden Lyre,
Strains, worthy PITT, cœlestial Muse in-
spire !

In whom, with Wonder, and Delight, we
find,

To blooming Youth, experienc'd Wisdom
join'd ;

What

58 · M E M O I R S of

What forceful Reason ! manly Eloquence !
Adorn'd Him in his Country's dear De-
fence ?

When, dauntless, 'midst the Murmurs of a
Crowd,

He own'd the Cause of Liberty aloud ;
Th' intrepid * Angel, thus unshaken, stood
'Midst faithless Numbers, eminently good.

F. What ! yet again ? *P.* Nay, under this
Restraint,

The Verse must languish, and Description
faint.

F. Believe me, Friend, my Care is kindly
meant,

Prudence, and Caution, num'rous Ills pre-
vent.

P. For once, uninterrupted, let me speak,
Nor, thus, each Period with your Cautions
break :

Where did I stop ? *F.* With *Pitt.* *P.* Then
let the Song

To LITTLETON, the Muse's Friend, be-
long ;

Born, in each polish'd Science to excell,
As fam'd for speaking, as for writing well ;
Distinguish'd Pair ! with purest Manners
grac'd !

High in your Royal Master's Favour plac'd ;

That

* *Abdiel.* See *Milton.*

That Bliss, supreme, doth bounteous Fate
prepare
For gen'rous Minds, that make Mankind
their Care,

Ye noble Few, who, in a shameless Age,
Dare bring heroic Virtue on the Stage ;
Behold, where Heav'n-born Fame conspi-
cuous stands !

Unfading Laurels fill her sacred Hands !
Emblems of undecaying, fresh renown,
Prepar'd your ever-honour'd Heads to crown :
These Wreaths be your's, from whence true
Greatness springs ;
Oh, look on Coronets as meaner Things !

See, in the hostile Field, for this Reward,
Fearless *Argyle* each Danger disregard ;
Argyle, by ev'ry worthy Mind ador'd !
Whose Oratory conquers like his Sword ;
His Country's drooping Genius born to raise,
And warm, anew, her cold declining Days ;
With him ye Patriot Sons ! unite your Force,
And stem Corruption in it's headlong Course ;
See, wide it spreads ! and, in it's fable Wave,
What Prelates bath ! what Stars, and Gar-
ters lave ?

There may they sink, since *Lethe*-like, it's
Stream
Hath banish'd from their Hearts the Love of
Fame ;

While

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While Wrongs, and Insults, shamefully are
born ;
Our Fleet's a Jest, our Name a Word of
Scorn.

F. What means this Madness, will you ne'er
give o'er ?

Those Evils you complain of are no more ;
Prudence, and Mercy, in well-govern'd
States,

Prevent the Ruin wasteful War creates ;
Those healing Arts have vainly been apply'd,
Now diff'rent Councils in their Turn preside ;
Array'd in Terror, see *Britannia* rise,
And hurl vindictive Thunder thro' the Skies !
Bent to chastise the Insolence of *Spain*,
And re-assume her Empire o'er the Main :
View all things in a clear impartial Light,
And Reason shall confess these Measures
right ;

Cease then to censure, that which merits
Praise,

And, timely, stop your keen satyric Lays ;
E'er frowning Pow'r assumes the awful Nod,
And shews the Terror of it's Iron Rod.

P. A good Intention is the best Defence,
True Fortitude proceeds from Innocence ;
Let *Gallic* Slaves despotic Pow'r obey,
Justice, and Liberty in *Albion* sway :
Secure from Danger, may the Muse inspire
Her free-born Sons with ancient *Roman* Fire ;

Such,

Such, as of old, in *Cato's* shone confest,
And lives in *Carteret*, and in *Talbot's* Breast;
Oh, may the heavenly Flame dispel our
Fears,
Re-ignite Hope, and dry *Britannia's* Tears!

And since, from the Great, I have digressed
to the Vulgar; I cannot forget Doctor
Ow—ns, whom, at the End of my First Vo-
lume, I promised to record, and scorn to
deal in Lies, as he did: This pious Divine,
who was an intimate Acquaintance of my
Father's, gave himself the Trouble of com-
ing to my Landlord, Mr. *R—ly*, an Officer
of Mace, in *Michael's-lane*, a little while
after I was parted from my Husband, toge-
ther with his Curate, Mr. *R—b—ns—n*, and,
with great Humanity, insisted on his turning
me out of the House, otherwise they would
present it: The Landlord asked, what I had
done? They answered, I was an excommuni-
cated Person, — a Lie; that I had run away
from my Husband, another Lie; — that
since I had left him, I had seven Bastards, —
which was pretty quick, as we had been but
seven Months asunder, — another Lie; —
but when a Churchman is in for it, he will
out-lie the Devil; at length, these Parsons
descended so low, as to threaten to inform
that my Landlord's Wife was a *Roman*, which
I believe, was another Lie; but, whether true,
or

or false, it was very unbecoming of their Characters, either as Gentlemen, or Christians, to say.

But I was to be insulted at any Rate ; for the Clergy hang together ; and if some did it would be no great Loss.

For when a swinging Sin is to be committed, there is nothing like a Gown and a Cassock to cover it.

But once more to return to *Albion*. I had laid out a Couple of Guineas on a little curious Picture, which I bought to sell again, but was advised to present it to the Lord Almoner, who, they said, had a Taste for Painting ; he generously accepted of my Favour, but neither made me any Return from his own Bounty, nor his Majesty's ; so I had no great Reason to say, he deserv'd the Character of an honest Man.

On the Change of the Ministry, I wrote the following Lines :

To the Right Hon. HENRY PELHAM, Esq;

A MIDST contending Parties Strife for
Sway,
Eager to rule, reluctant to obey ;
How just, how noble, must his Conduct
seem !

Whom all unite to Honour, and Esteem ?

This

This blissful Fate, this Happiness divine,
Has Heaven reserv'd to crown a Life, like
Thine ;

This the Reward sublimer Virtues claim,
Unenvy'd Honours, and unspotted Fame !
Integrity in fairest Light confess'd,
Lives in the sacred Centre of thy Breast ;
Oh, never, never, from her Laws depart !
So, reign, confess'd, the Friend of ev'ry
Heart ;

Fix'd on her solid Base, thy Worth shall
stand,

And *Britons* bless thy delegated Hand :
Ev'n restless Faction shall ensure thy Peace,
And only Heav'n thy Happiness encrease.

I shewed these Lines to Mr. *Cibber*, who
liked them so well, that he undertook to de-
liver them for me.

The next Morning, early, he waited on
him, and then call'd upon me, and, giving
me five Guineas, asked me, whether I
thought them a sufficient Reward for my
Poetry, I told him, I really did : Well then,
said he, Mr. *Pelham* distinguished thus :
“ There are five Guineas, for the Lady's
“ Numbers ; and Five more, for the good
“ Advice they contain ; and tell her, I hope
“ God will always give me Grace to follow
“ it.”

There

There was a Statesman ! when comes such another ?

Not seeing Mr. *Cibber* for a Fortnight after this Instance of his Friendship, and Humanity, I wrote to him the following Lines :

To Mr. CIBBER.

SINCE You became so great a Stranger,
My Muse, and Life, have been in Danger ;

Consider, both on You depend,
As their inspiring, faithful Friend ;
And, shou'd your guardian Care decrease,
Their animating Fires must cease ;
Since Novelties alone delight you,
I've found a Method to excite you ;
A Scheme, untry'd before to move you,
'Tis plainly to confess, I love you ;
Now, look not with Surprise, or Coldness,
Nor call this Declaration Boldness ;
For mine's a Flame divinely pure,
For ever fitted to endure ;
From ev'ry grosser Thought refin'd,
A Love for your accomplish'd Mind.

Mr. *Cibber* sent me Word, he was going to the Masquerade ; but would see me next Day, which gave rise to the following Lines :

To

To COLLEY CIBBER, *Esq*;

•• CAN now a Masquerade delight you?
What are it's Charms that can invite
you?

Have not your Eyes to Age survey'd
The Medley World in Masquerade?
Where Friendship's Masque conceals the
Knave,

And Cowards wear the Masque of Brave;
The Masque of Love, we frail Ones find
Worn, when our Ruin is design'd;
The Patriot's Masque conceals *Sedition*,
And soft Humility's, *Ambition*;
Ev'n you, sometimes, the Masque will
wear,

And what you are not oft appear;
Rally your Faults with Wit, and Spirit,
And make your Folly masque your Merit:
Come undisguis'd then, come reveal'd
To me, and Truth; let Folly yield,
And leave the Masque to Fools conceal'd. }

Mr. *Cibber* received these Lines with his
usual Partiality to me, and my Performances.

And here, it may not be amiss to give a
particular Character of this Gentleman, as
no Man has ever been more satyrized, or
less deserved it.

F

And

66 MEMOIRS of

And, I think, I cannot do it, in a better Manner, than I have used in describing Doctor *Swift*; ——— that is, to give him to my Readers in his Words, and Actions, as near as I can recollect them, during the Time I had the Honour of being known to him: And, if the petty Scribblers should say, that I never knew him, any more than I did the Dean of *St. Patrick's*; ——— why they only take away Merit from me with one Hand, to give it to me with the other; and must, at least, afford me the Praise of inventing with Probability, that I have not

Drawn Bears in Water, Dolphins in the Trees,

But am uniform in my Characters, and

Paint Achilles as Achilles was.

As I have mentioned a poetical Introduction to this Gentleman's Favour, I must give a particular Account of his first Visit: He ran up Stairs with the Vivacity of a Youth of Fifteen, and, making me a courtly Bow, said, he was sure I did not know him; I answered,

Not to know him, wou'd argue myself unknown.

“ And, prithee, said he, why did not
“ you come to my House the Moment you
“ came

“ came to *London* ?” “ Upon my Word,
 “ Sir, that would have been a modest Proof
 “ of *Irish* Assurance ; how could I hope for
 “ a Reception ?” “ Pshaw, said he, Merit
 “ is a sufficient Recommendation to me.” I
 curtesied, and, as we both stood, “ Sit
 “ down, said he, be less ceremonious to be
 “ better bred ; come, shew me your Writ-
 “ ings.” I obeyed ; and, upon his reading
 the Poem, called *Sorrow*, he burst into Tears,
 and was not ashamed to give the flowing
 Virtue manly Way ; he desired a Copy of
 it, — which I gave him ; and now his
 Curiosity was raised, to know who I was ?
 I told him, mine was a long, and mourn-
 ful Story, unfit for a Soul, so humanized
 as his.

*Where dwelt the pitying Pang, the tender
 Tear,
 The Sigh for suff'ring Worth, the Wish
 preferr'd
 For Humankind, the Joy to see them blest,
 And all the social Offspring of the Heart.*

Mr. *Cibber* assured me, my fine Compliment
 should not excuse me ; for he was fully de-
 termined, to have my History from my own
 Lips ; and desired I might come and break-
 fast with him next Morning, and begin.

Accordingly, I waited on him, and wonderfully was he delighted with my Account of Doctor *Swift*; he had the Patience to listen to me three Hours, without ever once interrupting me, a most uncommon Instance of good Breeding, especially from a Person of his Years, who usually dictate to the Company, and engross all the Talk to themselves: For, as Doctor *Young* observes,

*A Dearth of Words a Woman need not
fear ;
But 'tis a Task, indeed, to learn to hear !
In that the Skill of Conversation lies,
'Tis that must prove you both polite, and
wise.*

And I do assure my Readers, the Gentleman neither yawned, scratched his Head, beat Tatoo with his Foot, nor used any such ambiguous Giving-out, to note that he was weary.

So far from it, that tho' he was engaged to dine with the Duke of *Gr—ft—n*, he had forgot it, till his Servant came in, to dress him; he strictly charged me, to come to him the next Morning, and set my Spout a going, for so he merrily called my Mouth.

I obeyed his most kind Command; and, by way of Introduction, told him a Story,
Doctor

Doctor *Swift* related to me, which was as follows :

A Gentleman met a Friend in the Street, whom he had not seen for some Years ; he began to give him an Account of what had befallen him, since their Separation from each other ; a Cart happened to intervene, upon which, they took different Streets ; seven Years past, and it so befel they met just in the same Place, when, without the least Ceremony, he proceeded in his Story, “ And, as I was telling you, said he,” &c.

I was going to proceed, when Mr. *Cibber* interrupted me ; I was, said he, at the Duke of *R-chm—nd*’s last Summer, when his Daughter, a most accomplished young Lady, and a very early Riser, sat reading in a beautiful Portico, about Six in the Morning ; I accosted the fair Creature, and asked her the Subject of her Contemplation ? So in a most elegant, and agreeable Stile, she related to me Part of a very entertaining Novel, she held in her Hand, and, I believe, in better Words than the Author wrote it. A Summons to Breakfast broke off her most agreeable Narration.

The next Morning I saw the Charmer in the same Portico, who took up the Story at the very Word she had broke off, and concluded it,

As *Ireland* is now graced with this illustrious Fair One, in whom Virtue, Beauty, Modesty, Taste, and every Excellence unite, I hope for her Pardon, for presuming to mention her.

And tho', as she will soon see her noble Father was a beneficent Patron to me; I hate Flattery so much, that I would not, on that Account, pay her a Compliment, beyond what was due to her elevated Station, did not her superior Virtues command it.

Never yet were seen a more tender, or a more lovely Pair than the Duke and Dutches of *Richmond*, with their blooming Progeny, like new-blown Roses, smiling around them; an Instance, Wedlock may be happy, even among the Great, when mutual Love, and mutual Honour join.

*Here Love his golden Shafts employs, here
lights*

*His constant Lamp, and waves his purple
Wings;*

Reigns here, and revels!

And, it is with infinite Pleasure, I learn, that Lord and Lady *Kildare* are as great an Example in conjugal Fidelity, Piety, and Generosity, as their noble Parents.

This Digression, I am certain, will be excused.

I went

I went on with my Story to Mr. *Cibber*, who, at last, in flowing Spirits, cried, "Z——ds! write it out, just as you relate it, and, I'll engage it will sell."

Every Poem, as I occasionally introduced them, he made me give him a Copy of, and communicated them to the Earl of *Ch-ff-r-d*, who positively insisted on it, that I must understand *Greek*, and *Latin*, otherwise I never could write *English* so well. Mr. *Cibber* said, he had not enquired, but that he would that Moment: And, accordingly, came, and told me, what my Lord had said; I assured him, I was ignorant of every Language, except my Mother-tongue; but that if he would be so kind to present my Respects to his Lordship, and let him know, that Doctor *Swift* had taught me *English*; I was certain, he would allow, I had an excellent Tutor, to which his Lordship readily acquiesced.

But, alas! though my Honours were very great, my Profits were very small. The dismal Return of Summer, for so it was to me, robbed me of every Friend; and, as I could not take up with mean Company, I was as solitary in *London* as the Pelican in the Wilderness. I acquainted Dr. *T-rnbull* with my melancholy Situation, and prevailed on him to write to Mr. *P——n*, to remit to me what was due, on the Agree-

ment between us. About ten Days after, the Post-man brought a Letter, marked from *Dublin*, to the Doctor; he happened to be at *Kensington*, so I paid for it, and knowing he had no Acquaintance in *Ireland*, I ventured to open it; it was wrote in a Text Hand, the Contents of it were as follow:

SIR,

IN the Absence of my Client, Mr. P——n, I received your Letter; and he wou'd have you to know, the Woman, you mention, is not his Wife, nor has he any thing to say to the infamous Wretch; she fled from *Ireland*, where she ought to have been executed, for killing her Father, three of her Bastards, and poisoning her Husband. It does not become a Clergyman to countenance a common Prostitute; if she owes you any Money, you may put her in Jail; for I do assure you, it will never be paid by Mr. P——n;

I am,

Sir, Your's,

J. WALSH.

Could

Could one believe, that any thing less than infernal Malice could have forged such an Accusation against an innocent Person? My very Blood thrilled with Horror, to think, there could be such a Monster of my Species; I am sure he

Shou'd never pray more, abandon all Remorse

*On Horrors Head, Horrors accumulate,
Do Deeds to makes Heaven weep, all Earth amaz'd;*

*For nothing can be to Damnation add,
Greater than this.*

Tho' I was far from the least Apprehension that the evil Facts I was charged with, as to killing all my Family, would meet with any Credit; yet Mr. P——n's denying me to be his Wife, and the Declaration that I was not intitled to any thing from him might hurt mine; I suppressed the Letter for a Day or two, till learning, by Accident, that the Lord Bishop of *Kilmore*, now Lord Archbishop of *Tuam* (to whose Family my Father had the Honour of being Physician; and to whose Humanity I am infinitely indebted, (which, with the utmost Respect, and Gratitude, I take this public Opportunity of acknowledging) was in *London*; I took the Liberty of addressing myself

to

to him, as the Daughter of a Gentleman, whom I was sensible his Lordship regarded; my Application was not in vain, for though he that Day set out for *Ireland*, he not only sent me a handsome Present, but gave it in so genteel, so polite a Manner, with his Compliments, that it added tenfold Weight to his Favour.

When my Lord's Gentleman came to me, Providence so ordered, that Doctor *T—bull* was drinking Coffee with me, and upon this Encouragement of a Prelate's taking Compassion on my lost Estate; I ventured to communicate to him Mr. *Walsh's* Letter; the Doctor lifted up his Hands and Eyes to Heaven, and seem'd as much shocked at the Perfidiousness of the Wretch, as I had been; for whoever wrote the Letter, it was certainly done by Mr. *P——n's* Direction; but no Wonder, when he had sworn I was dead, and was actually married to another, he tried every Method to destroy me. And, to convince the World, I do not wrong him, I here present them with a Letter I received from *Ireland*, and communicated to the present Primate, who knows it was not a forged, but a genuine One.

MADAM,

MADAM,

I Beg Pardon for giving you this Trouble, though whether it can be any to you, I know not, having been so often assured by him, who ought to have the best Cause of Knowledge, that you were long since dead; but, to my great Surprize, I was informed by a Gentleman of Distinction, lately come from *London*, that he saw you, that you were very well, and lived in *St. James's Street*.

The Cause of my Writing to you may seem odd, but this it is.

Mr. P——— has, for some time past, paid his Addresses to a young Lady, who is the Daughter of my most intimate Friend, to whom I have often heard him, with repeated Oaths, not only confirm your Death, but that also of his two younger Children—the latter is already found to be a base Falshood, and should it appear that he has attempted to impose a greater on us, there is no Penalty the Law can inflict, which he shall not suffer, nor shall my Resentment ever lessen or abate, as he has justly merited it.

I beg, Madam, if you yet exist, you will favour me with an Answer, and let me know whether there were any Terms of Agreement

ment between you and Mr. P——n, on your Separation ; and be assured neither Money nor Friends shall be wanting to support your Interest ; and though I have not the Pleasure of being known to you, you will find a real Friend in

DAVID LAMBERT.

Direct to me at the *Globe Coffee-House, Dublin.*

I answer'd this Letter the Moment I received it, which was three Weeks after the Date, and never heard of the Gentleman more, nor know I whether he exists, or not.

And as Mr. P——n has, since my Return to *Ireland*, accus'd me of attempting to injure him with the Primates, as he styles them. I fairly own I sent Mr. *Walsh's* Letter to the late Lord Primate *Hoadly*, and Mr. *Lambert's* Letter to the present Lord Primate, (who as he says) in his most stupid Epistle, scorn'd to countenance me ; and gave him my Letter, and my List of Subscribers also, with full Power to do to them what he pleased : And, truly Mr. Parson, so do I ; but if neither the Lord Lieutenant, nor any of the principal Persons of Distinction in this

M^{rs}. Pilkington

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 77

this Kingdom, who have honoured me with their Regard, shou'd be willing to bear an Insult from you, how can you help yourself? Why, Man, we are in a Protestant Country, and disdain to be Priest-ridden.

Finding myself unable to pay so high a Rent as I stood at, I discharged my Lodging and Servant, and went to board and lodge at a very genteel House in *Green-street, Grosvenor Square*; my Landlord was Valet de Chambre to the Earl of *Stair*, and his Wife a top Laundress, which, in *London*, is a very profitable Employment.

As she wash'd for several Persons of Distinction, she us'd, of a *Sunday*, to invite the Head Servants of Noblemen's Families to Dinner, at which, I never took Umbrage; for you are sure from them to learn every Circumstance relating to their Lords and Ladies, and many entertaining Stories of their particular Humours and Gallantries, did I learn; so true is it, that either good or evil Fame proceeds from our Domestics; and no Wonder, as they have a better Opportunity than the rest of the World, to watch our unguarded Hours, and comment on our Frailties.

Amongst others, Sir *John Ligonier's* Gentleman, as they stiled him, which Name, his generous Master soon after entitled him to, by giving him a Commission, dined with

us;

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us; he looked very attentively at me, and put me into Confusion, by telling my Landlady, she had, to his Knowledge, a Gentlewoman Lodger.

After Dinner, my Landlord brought in a large Bowl of Punch, Pipes and Tobacco, upon which I made my *Exit*.

I had not long been in my Dressing-Room, which opened into a very sweet Garden, when Mr. *Parkinson*, for so was this Person call'd, follow'd me, he told me, he hated Drink and Tobacco, and would be infinitely obliged to me for a Dish of Tea, which, as my Curiosity was rais'd by the Words he had let drop at Dinner, I readily consented to give him.

He had, he told me, frequently seen me in *Stephen's Green*, and was in *Dublin*, at the Time of my Separation from my Husband, and that Numbers of People lamented my hard Fate. I told him I had not found it so, for that I could not even get what was due to me from thence, nor an Answer to any Letter I ever wrote.

He then asked me, how I got any Support; especially, as he had learned from the Family, that I lived very retired; I ingenuously told him, I had no other Fortune than my Pen, and, at his Request, shewed him some of my Writings; he told me his Master delighted in Poetry, and was one of
the

the most generous Gentlemen living, and, that he was certain, if I applied to him, he would be a Friend to me; I was easily prevailed on to write to him, to beg he would do me the Honour of subscribing to me, and sent him such of my Rhimes, as I myself had the best Opinion of. The General wrote me a very polite Answer, and, as he lived but a few Doors from my Lodging, gave me, the next Evening, the Honour of a Visit.

This Gentleman, is so universally known, beloved, honoured, and esteemed, that I dare not attempt his Character, being assured, my best Painting would fall infinitely short of the sublime Original. Nor was I at all surpris'd, he should be a Favourite to the Fair, who was adorned with Honour, Generosity, Valour, and yet, even Female Softness, and Complacency, added to the Charms of a most graceful, and, majestic Person.

And if in an advanced Age he shone so brightly, what must he have done in his first Bloom, when

*His kindling Cheeks, with purple Beauties
glow'd,
His lovely sparkling Eyes, shot martial
Fires;*

Dreadful

His lovely sparkling Eyes not martial Fires.

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*Dreadful as Mars, and as his Venus
charming.*

I dare say, half the Ladies would have
cried out with *Phædra*,

*O God-like Form ! O Extasy, and Trans-
port !*

This worthy Gentleman subscribed to me
for twelve Books, and also engaged the
late Duke of *Argyle*, the Earl of *Stair*,
the Lord *Cobham*, and several other *English*
Noblemen, to do me the same Honour.

So the Almighty raised me Friends, even
in a strange Land ; and prov'd my Husband,
though a Priest, no Prophet, who declared
I should starve, to which, indeed, his best
Endeavours have not been wanting.

But, he should have remembered the
Words of holy *David* ; *I have been young,*
and now am old, yet never saw I the Righteous
Man forsaken, nor his Seed begging their
Bread.

My dear Father had, by his many good
Works, entailed a Blessing on my honest
Endeavours ; and as Mr. *Gibber* us'd to say,
when I wrote any thing that pleas'd him,
“ The Gift of the great God to you, pre-
“ serves you ;” which, as I never sold, nor
prostituted it to unworthy Ends, I humbly
hope

hope his Mercy will afford to me, as long as I have any Being.

This timely Assistance enabled me not only to live, but to pursue my writing, which no Person can ever do well, while their Minds are, like *Martha's*, troubled with many Things.

A few Days after this, a very genteel, pretty Woman, took a Lodging in the same House with me: She was with Child, and her Husband was, as she said, a Lawyer, and was gone the Circuit; so finding the City not agree with her, she moved to better Air. As she had very good Furniture, my Landlady made no Scruple to accept of her without farther Enquiry; and I was well pleased to think, I should have an agreeable Companion.

Her Manner of Life greatly surprized me, for in two Months Time, she never once went abroad, nor did any human Creature come to visit her.

At length, about two o'Clock one Morning, a Gentleman came, who, she said, was her Husband; she let him in herself, and he left her early in the Morning, so that none of the Family saw him; he repeated his nocturnal Visits several Times, after the same Manner, in the Dead still, and Middle of the Night, which appeared to me rather to wear the Face of an Amour, than lawful Matrimony.

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At length, the Gentleman failed in his Attendance, and the Lady said, he was gone into the Country.

The Nightly Knocking at the Door did cease,

The noiseless Hammer rusted there in Peace.

Some Weeks past over without either a Message, or a Letter, coming from the supposed Husband, upon which she fell into a deep Melancholy; which, though she seemed to attribute to her Apprehension of the approaching Hour, I could easily perceive, had some more secret, and latent Cause.

And, as in my Life I had never seen a more retired, or modest Person, I had the utmost Compassion for her, and judged if she was among the Number of the Unfortunate, some uncommon Villainy had been practised against her.

As we were very intimate, I frequently surprized her in Tears; and, at last I ventured to beg her to acquaint me with the Cause of her Affliction, assuring her, it was not an impertinent Female Curiosity which urged me on, but a real Desire to be serviceable to her, which, perhaps, by some Means or other, Providence might point out.

She

She burst into Tears, and fondly embracing me, told me, she wanted a Friend to unbosom herself to, and added, that if I would be her Bedfellow that Night, she would relate to me her unhappy Story.

Wished for Night came, and my fair Friend kept her Promise.

I am, said she, the Daughter of an eminent Merchant, who by his extraordinary good Nature, in being Surety for others, hospitable Spirit, and very great Losses at Sea, was obliged to live in a more narrow Compass than suited the Generosity of his Mind; my Mother dying when I was but twelve Years of Age, my Father made me Mistress of the House, which he said would teach me to be an Oeconomist, and to know how to govern one of my own. When I was about fourteen Years of Age, a wealthy Packer, and a very handsome Man, courted me; my Father ingenuously told him, he could give him but five hundred Pounds, with which, if he was satisfied, and, that I had no Objection to it, he should be very glad to have him for a Son-in-law.

Mr. *H—rn—I*, for so was he called, assured him, he would gladly take me without a Portion, but my Father insisted on his Acceptance of it, as it would help to furnish a House.

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Whatever may be thought at *St. James's*, those who converse with the Traders of *London*, will find, they neither want Sense nor Politeness; and I liked Mr. *H*——/ so well, that I was very glad of being so happily disposed of.

My Husband took a House commodious for his Business, and for four Years, during which Time, I had four Children, we lived in great Harmony.

But, in the mean Time, I had the Misfortune of losing my dear Father, who left the little Remainder of his Fortune, as a Portion for my younger Sister, and appointed my Husband to be her Guardian.

One Day he told me, he was afraid he should not be able to keep such good Hours as he had done, being chosen a Member of the Philosophic Club, in which were many Gentlemen of Distinction, whose Acquaintance, it was greatly his Interest to cultivate, and to whom it was an Honour to be known, so he hoped it would not give me any Uneasiness: I answered, he had always been so indulgent to me, I must be ungrateful, indeed, to take Offence, or be uneasy at any Thing he was pleased to do; he seemed transported with my Answer, kissed me, and said, I was the best Wife living. Little did I think what Villainy he was perpetrating against me.

He

He now stayed out several Nights entirely, and, if he came at all, it was not till Four or Five in the Morning, which, being unacquainted with Jealousy, gave me no other Concern, than the Fear Irregularities might prejudice his Health; but I have often been surprized at his coming home so sober, and that he did not appear drowsy, after such long watching.

One Morning, in particular, he no sooner entered, but he called for his riding Dress, and told me, he was going with a Gentleman into the Country, for a few Days; so giving me his Purse, in which were forty Guineas, he desired I would carefully observe his Business, in which, I was now a pretty good Proficient.

Three Months Time elapsed, and, tho' I wrote to him, according to his own Direction, I never received an Answer.

I was now fill'd with the most gloomy Apprehensions; one Time concluding he had been murdered; a thousand Fears presented themselves to my Imagination, till lost and bewildered, I could fix on nothing: My Friends persuaded me to advertise him, which accordingly I did.

Some Days after, a very well drest young Gentleman desired to see me; I shewed him into the Parlour, where he demanded of me, whether I was Mr. H——'s Wife?

I said, yes ; upon which, to my great Surprise, he asked me, could I prove it ? I assured him I could ; “ That’s all I want, “ Madam ;” I begged he would explain those dark Speeches, inasmuch as they quite terrified me : “ Madam, said he, my Name “ is *L—ck—y*, I have a good Estate, and “ am newly called to the Bar ; your Husband “ has inveigled away my Sister, and “ married her ; she is under Age, and has “ fifteen thousand Pounds to her Fortune ; “ she shall prove her Marriage, and, if “ you do not prove your prior one, what “ can the World think of you ?”

I was so astonished at this Account that I fainted away ; — the Gentleman called the Servants to my Assistance, and stayed by me till I came to myself ; the Agonies I felt are only known to those who have truly and tenderly loved : dreadful Alternative ! either to prosecute a beloved Husband to Death, or be myself deemed an infamous Woman ?

Here the poor Creature had so renewed her own Anguish, and so awakened all my Woes, that our Eyes streamed social, and mingled their sympathetic Waters ; till, insensibly, the dewy-feathered Sleep closed up our Eye-lids.

I longed as much for the next Night, as the Sultan, in the *The Arabian Nights Entertainment* did to hear the charming *Sche-razade’s*

razade's fine Stories, at length it came, and the Lady proceeded.

I begged a Day or two to consider on so important an Affair, and also to consult with my Friends, what was most adviseable for me to do, and then I would return a positive Answer ; so, having an Uncle in *Bond-street*, I sent my Household Furniture there : Dear Madam, said I, what did you do with your Children ? Oh, returned she, I never had one that lived above a few Days. That, said I, was happy. I think so now, said she, though I did not then. I told my Uncle all my mournful Story, who advised me, by all Means to vindicate myself, and not fall a Prey to so consummate a Villain.

I stayed with my Uncle, who was a Widower ; my Sister married, and Mr. *H——* would not pay her her Fortune, as she had not asked his Consent : My Uncle would not permit either a Letter, or a Message to be delivered to me, but kept me a perfect Prisoner ; however, there was a young Lady in the Neighbourhood, whom he had some Inclination to marry, and whom he frequently brought, as a Companion, to relieve my solitary Hours.

One Evening she insisted on my coming to drink Tea with her, my Uncle urged me to it ; I went. Judge of my Surprise ! when I found there my Husband's Mother, and

Sister all drowned in Tears; they told me, he was confined in *Newgate* — had taken the Prison-fever, and declared he could not die in Peace, unless he saw me.

I loved too well to refuse his Request, upon which they immediately hurried me into a Coach; and there indeed he was; the Lawyer had arraigned him for his Life, and he must take his Trial.

He looked so dejected, and seemed so sincerely penitent, and I, alas! so sincerely loved him, that I even consented to stay with him in his Confinement; he acknowledged his Fault, but very artfully insinuated that it did not proceed from any Change in his Affection, but that his Circumstances were so distressed, that he had no other Means to retrieve them; that his Death could be of no Service to me; — that I knew myself to be his lawful Wife; that he would always support me; in short, he used every tender, and prevailing Argument to keep me from appearing against him, and, Heaven knows, I had no Inclination to do it.

When his Trial Day came, his second Wife fully proved her Marriage to him; but, like the real Mother, I chose to give her all, sooner than divide him, so she triumphed over me; and, as I had given up the Cause, none of my Friends would give me any Assistance. I am now in the oddest
Situation

Situation imaginable, even a kept Mistress to my own Husband ; for, upon no other Terms, would he give me any Relief ; nor do I know whether to stile myself innocent, or guilty for my Condescension to him.

As my Tenderness for him made me appear in a bad Light to the World, ever ready to censure even our best Actions ; I dare not, in my present Condition, let any Person, who knows me, see me, lest they should think of me worse than I deserve — I have had no Supply from him for a considerable Time ; he has prohibited my writing to him, at his House ; and now, dear Madam, advise me what to do.

There was something so peculiarly unhappy in this poor Creature's Fate, that it might puzzle a wiser Head than mine to comply with her Request ; I considered it every Way without being able to form any Scheme for her Relief.

At length, she told me, he kept an Office on *Ludgate-Hill*, where he was always to be found at Nine in the Morning, as his second Wife was too fine a Lady to bear One in the House ; she imagined, if I could see him, I might work on his Compassion ; I readily consented to do any thing which might be serviceable to her, and rising early next Morning, she gave me a Letter

to

to him, which I promised not to deliver, but into his own Hand.

Accordingly, I set out on my Embassy, and found the Gentleman, such as she had described him, a polite, handsome Man, of about thirty Years of Age; he was alone, and received me very civilly: I presented the Letter, but seemed ignorant of the Contents; I could easily perceive he was much disturbed; however, with a marvellous Assurance, he said, he could not give Charity to every Body; that he had often assisted that unfortunate Person; that she ought to work for her Bread, as many of her Betters did, and a Number of such inhumane Speeches, common on those Occasions. I told him her present Condition did not enable her to perform any but Needle-work, and that he who put her into it should support her; he asked me what I meant? Nothing but Honesty; if a Man gets a Child he ought to take Care of it. What, said he, would you have me father a Bastard? She could not, I am sure, have One by you; and would not, I am convinc'd, have One by any Body else. He bade me explain myself; I told him, he perfectly understood me, and therefore it was not necessary; but that, if he pleased, I would tell Mrs. H—the second, of his Midnight Visits to his Wife. The Wretch seemed confounded, and seeing
I knew

I knew him so well, thought he had best be quiet, especially as a Gentleman came in, before whom he did not care to be exposed; so he called me to the Staircase, and putting a Couple of Guineas into my Hand, said aloud, Madam, I shall take Care, and mind your Directions; I begged he would, and so we parted: But, I am well convinced, it was Fear, not Love, that made him send her even that Trifle.

This unhappy Lady died a few Hours after she was brought to Bed, the Infant also died; and I hope, though her Husband, by her Lenity, once escaped a Halter, justly due to him, he has, by this Time, inherited it, for I would have such Offenders so cut off.

I grew so melancholy at the Loss of my Companion, that I did not even care for writing, but amused myself entirely with reading; and my not having a Library of my own, made me a constant Customer to a Shop in the Neighbourhood, where they hired out Books by the Quarter; this brought me into an Acquaintance with the Persons who kept it, sensible, well-bred People: One Day I received a Letter from Mrs. Ryves, for that was their Name, that she had some very agreeable Friends with her, that they wanted a Hand at Quadrille, so she hoped I would be of their Party; I
was

was very glad of any Recreation, and as they lived but in *Brook-street*, directly went. I was shewn into a Parlour, where sat an old Man, whom I knew to be a *Grub-street* Writer, and a young Gentleman in a very plain Dress, whom I also supposed to be in the same Class ; they were playing Cribbage for a Farthing a Game, and, instead of Counters, scored with Chalk ; they had also an Ale-house Pot, with some Porter in it, standing by them, and the Room smelled strong of Tobacco ; from these Appearances, I conceived a very contemptible Opinion of the Company, and would have retired, had I known how to do it civilly ; but, as at my Entrance, I had told Mrs. Ryves, I was entirely disengaged that Evening, I could by no Means get off ; and could only hope for some little Amusement, by hearing what those Underlings in Arts and Sciences might have to say ;

*For ev'ry Object of Creation
May furnish Hints for Contemplation.*

The Scene, however, was changed, and the disagreeable Part of the Decoration removed, and a Quadrille Table introduced.

The younger Gentleman proposed our playing for Nothing : " Pshaw, said I, then ' we shall all cheat ;" " I would no more
" do

“ do that, said he, than give a Vote against
 “ my Country.”—— This surprized me ; I
 told him, I hoped, as he expressed such a
 Spirit of Patriotism, he had a Seat in the
 House : He said, he had the Honour of
 representing the ancient City of *Canterbury* ;
 that his Father was Admiral *Rooke*, and that
 he was married to the Sister of the Lord
Guilford Dudley, a Lady unmatched in Wit,
 and Beauty : I told him, I was glad to find
 one Person of Distinction, who was not
 ashamed to do Justice to the Merits of his
 Lady : “ I should be a Scoundrel, said he
 “ to refuse it ; she gave me the Preference
 “ to a Man of a much larger Fortune,
 “ to whom her Friends had destined her ;
 “ an Obligation never to be forgot by a
 “ grateful Spirit.” This Gentleman had
 such an uncommon generous way of thinking,
 that, instead of minding the Game, I was
 quite attentive to him, which he observing,
 said, “ Take away the Cards, they are only
 “ fit to amuse such as are incapable of tast-
 “ ing a more rational Entertainment.”

I was very glad of this ; — the old Scrib-
 bler walked into the Shop, to recreate him-
 self with Tobacco, and Porter ; and Mrs.
Ryves went to get us some Chat-inspiring
 Liquor, Green Tea.

I told Mr. *Rooke*, if I had been any way
 wanting in Respect to him, I hoped he
 would

would attribute it to my Ignorance of his Station, and the Company, and Situation I found him in.

He assured me, I had committed no Offence, nor did he believe it was in my Nature: But, said he, as you have remark'd on the Company, you must know my Wife and Lord S—*tbw*—ll's Sisters went this Morning to *Greenwich*, I had some Business which prevented my waiting on them; when that was over, I went to *Mount-street Coffee-house*, in order to pick up some Company to dine with me, and finding none, I asked the old Man, who refused me, as Mrs. Ryves had engaged him; I told him, I would go dine with him; — as I had, in the Shop, read your Apology for the Minister, I was greatly surprized to hear it was the Product of a Lady's Pen; when I seemed to question it, they proposed sending for you, which being very agreeable to me, was immediately done; so, Madam, this is the History of this Day.

I thanked the Gentleman, for his Complaisance in relating it.

The Tea put him into such high Spirits, that he, finding me a Sort of a Politician, told me many entertaining Stories, about Sir Rob—t W——le's various Schemes to have always the Majority of the House on his Side; of which, as many as I can recollect
that

that were humorous, I present my Readers with.

The First was this : One Sir *Cl—dy M—c—d—l*, a Scots Baronet, without a Foot of Estate, was returned duly elected, for what Shire I have forgot ; however, he came to *London*, took a Hackney-Coach, and drove to Sir *Rob—t*'s ; the Servants said, he was engaged ; but Sir *Cl—dy* insisted on his carrying up his Name, and, lest he should forget it, he jumped out of the Coach, and, running up Sairs after him, delivered his Embassy himself. Sir *Rob—t* welcomed him, and, like a Courtier, told him, he should be glad to serve him : “ Nay, nay, Mon, “ returned he, I came na here for Compliments ; I ha ne Siller to get a Lodging, “ so I’ll e’en stay here till you give me “ some : ” So Sir *Rob—t* chose to give him his Purse, rather than be plagued with his Impertinence.

The Earl of *P—rb—b*, a Pensioner, told Sir *Rob—t*, he was always at a Loss, how to vote, inasmuch as he did not understand the Debates, — and was so near frightened, that when the House divided, he knew not of which Side to go : — Sir *Rob—t* bade him always follow the Bishops. It happened, on the Convention Scheme, three or four of the Bishops rose, and the Earl seeing

seeing them move, he, according to his Master's Direction, followed them, and voted point-blank against his Interest.

Mr. *Rooke*, seeing how much I was pleased, proceeded :

A *Scots* Peer, who was also a Pensioner, and a remarkable fat Man, came one Morning, according to Custom, to Sir *Rob—t*'s Levee, and, without the least Ceremony, laid hold of his Ribbon ; Sir *Rob—t* could not readily disengage himself, and the Nobleman lugged him to the Window, in which, squellching himself down, he happened to have an Escape, which carried with it so loud a Report, that it set the whole Company into Laughter.

Very well, my Lord, said the Minister, pray what have you farther to say ?

“ Why, this it is, Sir *Rob—t*, I owe
 “ Fifteen hundred Pounds, and by G—d, if
 “ you don't give it to me, I'll go To-morrow
 “ to the House, and vote according to Con-
 “ science.” 'Tis to be presumed his Demand was complied with in private, though laughed at in public, as he always voted with Sir *Rob—t*.

Mr. *Rooke* finding me attentive, proceeded : The late Duke of *Wh—ton* was a Man of infinite Variety, and Humour ; at the Time of the Discovery of *Atterbury's Plot*, as they called it, which was proved by decyphering

cyphering Letters, and torturing the harmless Alphabet into Treason; the Duke saw a Man at the Door of the Parliament-house, selling Horn-books; Sir Rob—t's Equipage stopped, and the Duke, laying hold of him, as he alight told him, he was surprized he did not send that Fellow to *Newgate*, who was selling such a Libel on the Ministry: "Why," said Sir Rob—t, my Lord, those are Horn-books;" "Treason, by G——, as I will convince you;" so holding him, he ran on,

A stands for an *Army*, and *B* for a *Bench*,
C stands for a *Court*, and *D* for a *Drench*,
E, I won't interpret that,

F stands for gay *France*, which we hope
will not swerve,

And *G* stands for *George*, — whom God
long preserve,

P stands for the *P—x*, the *Pretender*,
the *Pope*,

And *R* stands for *Robin*, and *Ribbon*, and
Rope!

said he, pulling him by the blue String; the Minister could not help himself, and being naturally of a pacific Temper, took this as quietly as he did G-n-r-l *Cb—ch—ll's* lying with his W-fe.

As I had never heard the Story, I begged he would relate it: Why, said he Sir *R-b-rt* went out very early one Morning to the

House, but having forgot some Paper of Importance to the dirty Work of the Day,—he returned Home for it, and passing through his Wife's Apartment to his Closet, what should he see, but his serene Spouse and the General in amorous Dalliance—the General All-Hero, as he was, jumped out of Bed, and besought Mercy, from, as he supposed, his incensed Rival ; but the good Man, resembling *Cato* in one Point,

*Who, if a Friend or so should chance to
need her,*

Would recommend her as a special Breeder.

said carelessly, “ Prithee, what does the
“ Fool mean ? you look very warm ; get
“ into Bed again, or you’ll catch Cold.”

Mr. *Rooke*, seeing me so well diverted with this Story, proceeded to another : As I have, said he, mentioned the Duke of *Wh—rt—n*, — you are to know, he had an Intrigue with Mrs. *P—lt—y*, now C—tess of *B—th* ; one Morning, as they were in Bed together, he recollected that he had promised to write a Letter to a Friend — so he called for a Pen, Ink, and Paper ; but being at a Loss for a Writing-Desk, made the Lady turn up her Poste—s, and dated his Letter from sweet *P—ggy P—lt—y’s*, &c. &c. &c.

Here

Here entered our kind Host, and brought us in a Paper called the *Champion*, in which was a very humorous Piece of Advice to all who went to C—t, to wear Shields on their Bu—s, this was so *Mal à propos* that it raised our Mirth : Said Mr. Rooke his M——'s own was in Danger the other Night ; As how, Sir ? Why, said he, Sir Rob—t not chusing to hurt the Kingdom by the K— using foreign Commodities, when we had so much cheaper, and better at Home, recommended to him Miss Sk—rr—t, as an Hand-Mai—n ; his M—— liked her so well, that he invited her to sup with him in the C——tess of Y——'s Apartment, where growing a little more fond of his young Mistress than the old One could bear, she arose, and as the K—— leaned over the Table, drew the Chair from under him, and let M—— come souse to the Ground : Oh, what a Falling-off was there ! He, all enraged, rose again, kicked first the C——s, next his Hat, and retired to his Apartment, marvelously distempered with Choler.

Well, Sir, said I, surely Sir R——t was a most necessary Servant, that would even, Sir Pandarus of Troy become, and that for his own Daughter, to oblige his M——h ; but an able Politician will turn his Hand to any thing, where Profits may accrue, and Mr. Gay observes, that

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*In Pimps, and Politicians,
The Genius is the same.*

And yet, who could suspect a Man of his Reverence, and Station, for the most vile and servile of all Employments !

Oh fy, said he, don't disgrace so noble an Occupation. I assure you, the Knight's Complaisance to the General proved the Means of saving his own Life ; for, on the Excise Scheme, the People were so incensed, that they determined to put him to Death, and yet make it seem Chance Medley : Accordingly, as he was going down *St. Stephen's Steps*, into our illustrious S—te-House ! one Man pushed him so hard that he tumbled on his Face, and a Number of Persons determined to run over him, and trample him to Death ; but the General, who was with him, drew his Sword, and swore the first who advanced should die on Point of *Fox*.

Nobody ventured to encounter a *Cb—ll*, so the Prime M—ster escaped.

—Ah ! said I, that was God's Mercy, and ten Thousand Pities ! Faith, said he, and so it was.

Mr. *Rooke* now began to be a little inquisitive, who I was ? I told him my Name was *Meade*, for by that I always went in *London* ;

London ; so that the numerous Stories of Mrs. P——n's being in Taverns, Bagnio's, &c. which my Husband says he can prove, *Mem.* he lies, never appertained to me ; but to his own C—sin N——y P——n, whose Father lives in *Pill-lane*,——and who is herself as common a Prostitute as ever traversed the Hundreds of *Drury*.

I do this to convince him, I scorn to rob any of his illustrious Family of their noble Atchievements, and, according to the old Proverb, *'Tis but proper to set the Saddle on the right Horse*, or rather Mare, for I think she much resembles one.

But to return.

Mr. *Rooke* asked me, if I was related to Captain *Meade* ? I told him, he was my Uncle's Son : He said, he was a worthy little Fellow ; that he knew him very well, and had made him his Confidant in his Amour with his Lady.

Time stole insensibly away with such agreeable Amusement ; we sat till the small Hours without Drowsiness, nor did we desire the Aid of *Bacchus* to keep up our Spirits.

I humbly hope no Body will attempt to decypher my Initials ; for I do assure them, the great *M*—— is an innocent Letter, and does not like *Mitching*, *Mallicho*, mean Mischief.

I told Mr. *Rooke*, I was going to publish a Book by Subscription ; he said, he was sure it must be good, so he gave me a Guinea, and promised to use his Interest for me.

He told me, he would come and visit me the first Hour he had to spare : I answered, I hop'd he would soon find one : Well then, said he, I'll tell you how I pass the Day, and do you find one.

I rise about Nine, drink Coffee, not that I like it, but that it gives a Man the Air of a Politician, for the same Reason, I always read the News ; — then I dress, and about Twelve, go to the *Cocoa-Tree*, where I talk Treason ; from thence to *St. James's Coffee-house*, where I praise the Ministry ; then to *White's*, where I talk Gallantry ; so by Three, I return Home to Dinner ; after that, I read about an Hour, and digest the Book and the Dinner together ; — then I go to the Opera or Play, *Vaux-hall* or *Renelagh*, according to the Season of the Year ; from thence Home to Supper, and about Twelve to Bed.

I smiled at the Gentleman's whimsical Description of his passing the Day, and told him he had, by his own Account, three or four Hours to bestow on me, as the Hour he talked Treason, the Hour he was loyal, or the Hour in which he read ; “ Ay, said he,
“ very

"very gayly, or what think you of the
"last Hour, wherein I go to Bed?" "Oh,
"Sir, you are so much better engaged, it
"would not only be Wickedness, but Folly
"also, to think of that at all."

Well, depend on it, I'll see you to Mor-
row; so we took Leave for ever, for the
very first News I heard next Morning was,
that Mr. *Rooke*, a little while after he arose,
fell down in an Apoplectic Fit, and instantly
expired.

I never was more shocked than at his un-
timely Fate, Heavens! all Wit, Life, and
Gaiety at Night, and dead in the Morning!
I wept for him as a Friend, and such, I am
sure, he would have been to me, had he
lived. I found, by these two melancholy
Events, there was nothing serious in Mor-
tality, all was but Toys! I frequently re-
collected Dr. *Delany's* beautiful Lines, on
seeing himself in the Glais:

*When I revolve this evanescent State
Of short Duration, and uncertain Date;
My Being, and my Stay dependent still,
Not on my own, but on another's Will;
I ask myself, as I my Form review,
Which is the real Shadow of the two?*

Mrs. *Ryves* was also much touched for
the Loss of this Gentleman, and, indeed, so

was every Body who knew him. She and I went one Afternoon to walk in *St. James's Park*, but finding myself weary, she proposed going to a Physician's House in *Westminster*, a Widower, and her Relation, where we could get a Dish of Tea, and rest ourselves, I agreed; the Doctor was at Home, and a very polite Gentleman; I found by the Furniture of the Room, he was a *Virtuosi*, it being adorned with Books, Medals, Paintings, dried Butter-Flies, and Tomes of Casuistry.

The Dean mentions it as a Praise to *Vanessa*, that

*She, with Address, each Genius held
To that wherein they most excell'd;
So making others Wisdom known,
She pleas'd them, and improv'd her own.*

For no sooner did the Doctor perceive that I knew *Mark Anthony* from *Julius Cæsar*, and *Brutus* from both, but he related a great Part of the *Roman History* to me, even from the first *Punic War* to the Death of *Julius*.

My Readers may venture to believe it was not new to me, who had from my Childhood been, if I may use the Word, a perfect Devourer of Books; and I found them both

both sweet to the Palate, and nourishing Food to the Mind.

It has been observed, as a Piece of refined Policy in *Gundamor the Spaniard*, that he used to talk bad *Latin* to King *James I.* who being a Pedant rather than a Prince, had so much Pleasure in, as he thought, setting this *Machiavel* right, that, to oblige his Pupil, he complimented him with the Head of that learned, and brave Man Sir *Walter Raleigh*.

I have often successfully practised the same Art, and gained many Friends by seeming to take their Instruction with Pleasure, to acknowledge their Superiority of Understanding, on which even Fools pride themselves, is, I believe the most delicate way of flattering ever yet thought of, as *Cassius* says of *Cæsar*,

*And when I tell him, he hates Flattery,
He says he does, being then most flattered.*

Very few People are Virtue Proof there, all, like *Achilles*, have a mortal Heel, and though

*'Tis an old Maxim in the Schools,
That Flattery's the Food of Fools;*

Yet,

*Yet, now and then, your Men of Wit
Will condescend to taste a Bit.*

Swift.

I found the good Doctor fallible here, to my great Happiness, as it made him my Friend ; and, under God, his Skill and Care soon after saved my Life.

The Gentleman made us stay to Supper, finding when the Wind was in one particular Point, I was as wise as *Hamlet*, and knew a Hawk from a Handsaw.

At Supper I told him, I was an *Amicus*, a-kin to the Faculty, being a Physician's Daughter, upon which he arose, and said he must salute his Niece ; and, that if ever I should fall sick, he claimed the Honour of attending me. We stayed together till Twelve very chearfully, and then parted in Peace.

I have observed, if my Life had any Sunshine, it was but a faint and watery Gleam, too soon overcast, for, in a very few Days, I was seized with a violent Fever ; it took me with cold shivering Fits, and remembering the Doctor's Claim, I sent for him, he had me bled, and ordered me to go to Bed ; I did not see him till next Morning, by which time I was quite light-headed, and crying out for my Children ; when the Doctor came, I told him he had stolen them from me,

me, and carried them to Mr. P——ⁿ; on this he opened my Bosom, for which I also quarrelled, and said he was a very impudent Fellow; he, smiling, said, I had a very fair Skin, but that he was under a Necessity of making free with it, otherwise he could not answer for my Life; and as, it seems, it was full of purple Spots, he ordered a large Blister for my Back, and one for each Arm; what past for some Days, in which, it seems, they were renewed, I know not, being quite insensible even to Pain; but when the Fever abated, and Reason once more reassumed her Throne, what frail Machines are we, when Sickneſs can displace her? They assured me, I raved incessantly for my dear little Ones, and fell into such Fits of Crying and Lamentation for them, that it put them in Mind of *Rachel* mourning for the Loss of her Children, who refused to be comforted, because they were not.

So, as it has been often observed, that there is Truth in Wine, I found there was Truth in Madness, the Cause that hurts the Brain, or the reigning Passion of the Soul then manifests itself, and, as my Beloved were ever more present to my Imagination, it was no Wonder that their Names dwelt ever on my Tongue.

When

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When these Things were told me, I, as one newly awakened from Sleep, remembered some wild, disjointed, incoherent Ideas, which had possessed my Soul, even during it's lethargic State ; such as, that Mr. *P——n* was going to offer some violent Injury to our Children, but of what Kind I knew not, it was fled, like the Remembrance of a Guest which tarrieth but a Day. I might have as well have endeavoured to find out the Path which the light Bird had with his Wings beat in the buxom Air, or the Track of a Ship, when with it's crooked Keel, it divides the briny Waves which immediately unite again ; or seize old *Time*, and bid him bring me back one Moment past, as hope to recollect what was for ever lost in Oblivion.

Indeed I have frequently had these supernatural Sollicitings, or a Kind of Indication of whatever was to befall me before it happened ; Nay, what is more surprizing, I have read a History, to me quite new, and it has occurred to me, that I myself had been some way principally concerned in the most material Transactions of it, though they were past a thousand Years.

Had I lived in the Days of *Pythagoras*, I believe I should have been of his Opinion, and have imagined

That

*That all things are but altered; nothing
dies,
And here and there th' unbody'd Spirit
flies.*

Nay, I should have been afraid to kill a Woodcock, lest I should disinheret the Soul of my Grand-dame.

If my Reader thinks me whimsical, let him judge by the Event.

A Woman, in whose Garden I had once walked in *Ireland*, the first Day I was able to sit up, and very weak I was, after so long Sickness, even while my kind Physician was rubbing my Temples with *Hungary Water* to recover me out of a fainting Fit, rushed into the Room, and, without the least Ceremony, cried out, "Do you know what that Villain has done?" As I neither knew her, nor who she spoke of, I was quite startled, and asked her, who she talked about, or what she meant? "That Villain *P——n*, says she, who has sold your two younger Children for Slaves to *New York*:" This was such a monstrous Crime I could scarce give any Credit to it; for, even admitting what he had so cruelly charged me with in regard to his Bed was Truth, how had their helpless Innocence offended him? I observed to the Doctor, my Ravings were
ominous,

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ominous, and portended some dire Calamity.

The Doctor apprehending this Shock might make me relapse, begged of the Person who gave it, to retire ; which, after several Affeverations, that what she said was Fact, as indeed it was, and that she had brought it out in that Manner to hasten me, if possible, to prevent their unhappy Fate, she did.

As the Doctor was not only a Man of excellent Understanding, but also of great Humanity, I told him, as he had been so kind to administer to the Health of my Body, he must now, if possible, administer to a Mind diseased ; and as it was impossible for him to prescribe Remedies without knowing the Distemper, and it's Original, I gave him my Story in a few Words, and he advised me to write to *Ireland*, to the Rulers, and Bishops, which I did that very Night ; and providentially, the Letters were delivered Time enough to prevent the Children's being sold to Slavery — the Affair was enquired into, and Mr. P——n was obliged to refund to the Master of the Kid-Ship the Golden Earnest he had received as the Price of the Innocent.

What to me was most surprising was, that Mr. P——n's Mother was one of the Contrivers of this infernal Plot ; Grandmothers

Mrs. PILKINGTON. III

mothers being usually more indulgent to their Grand-children than even their Mothers; but as she who would have made a Prey of them is not long since dead, even of the Disease whereof *Herod, Peter the Cruel*, and other malignant Wretches fell by, I can only bid her Adieu, and charitably hope she has escaped the Judgment of the next World, as it fell on her in this.

These Facts are so publicly known, that for the Evidence of them I could produce even a Cloud of Witnesses, were it necessary.

And yet, who that beheld this Man clad in holy Vesture at the Altar, appearing like white-robed Innocence, with Eyes up-turned to Heaven, could believe him capable of all Manner of Crimes;

Perjury, Perjury in the highest Degree!
Cruelty, Cruelty in the sternest Degree.

He may, indeed, like *Richard III.* prove himself by these to be a Man; who, when his Mother upbraids him with his manifold Acts of savage Tyranny, she says,

No Beast so fierce but knows some Touch of Pity.

Rich.

read Crowe

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Rich. *But I know none, and therefore am
no Beast.*

And, indeed Mr. P——n may again say
with him, that he has nothing

*But the plain Devil, and dissembling Looks
To back his Cause.*

*Oh that Ithuriel's heav'nly temper'd Spear
Would make the Fiend in his own Shape ap-
pear,*

Or pluck the holy Furr from off his Back,
and let the World, for once see, what the
Inside of a wicked Priest is made of.

As I received no Account from *Ireland*,
I knew not what to think; sometimes I
flattered myself that the Woman had belied
him; at other times, reflecting on his into-
lerable Barbarity to the poor Creatures,
whom Distress alone made me leave im-
mured within his inhospitable Walls, too
rough a Cradle for my pretty Ones! my
very Heart died within me, and I am as
well assured as that I live, that it was not
the Fear of God, but the Fear of a Halter
hindered him from embruing his own Hands
in their vital Blood.

But, enough of the Wretch, whom, if
he can disprove me, ought to do it; he at-
tributes

tributes his Silence to contempt of me, but, it is well known, he neither wants Wit, nor Words, nor Impudence to bring him off; it is strong Conviction, with Proof as full and evident as Day against him, ties up his guilty Tongue.

At length, I thought of writing to *W—rs—le*, as I had learned he was in *Dublin*: He wrote me Word, that the Children were all well; that he had given an Apprentice-Fee with my Daughter to a Milliner, and had taken my youngest Son to himself; that old Mr. *Pilk—ton*, and my Mother were dead, and my last Child, which, being but an Infant, I could not carry to *London* with me, that he had got a famous ossified Man, and was going to carry him to *Paris* for a Show, to which Place he earnestly invited me to accompany him.

I hoped, by this Letter, that Mr. *P——n* had been wronged, with regard to the Children under his Care; and though some human Tears fell for the Lots of my Mother and my Child, yet, considering how desolate they both were, I envied rather than deplored their Fate.

The Child, here mentioned, was that which Mr. *P——n* disclaimed, and advised me to leave upon the Parish.

And now I do assure my Readers I was also sincerely sorry for the Death of old Mr.

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Pilk—ton, inasmuch as he always treated me with a fatherly Tenderneſs, was exceſſively fond of my Children, was a Man of a great uncultivated Genius; and, though I have mentioned his keeping an Ale-houſe, I did not mean it in any Diſreſpect to his Memory; for he was the Son of a Gentleman, though, by various Miſfortunes, he was reduced to take up ſo low an Occupation; but nothing can be juſtly deemed ſcandalous which is not diſhoneſt. And, I am well convinced, had he lived, he never would have conſented to the inhuman Barbarity of his Son.

*Adieu, and take thy Praise with thee to
Heav'n!*

So many melancholy Incidents had befallen me in this ſolitary Place, that I determined to change my Lodging; and was recommended by a Stationer's Wife to a ſingle Gentlewoman who kept a Milliner's Shop in *Fleet—ſtreet*; ſhe was a jolly likely Dame, of about Forty, very gay; we liked each other ſo well that we ſoon made a Bargain, and, for a few Days I was very well pleaſed with the Change, as the Variety of that buſy Part of *London* amused my Mind: But I ſoon found that I was got into very bad Hands, and that my new Landlady was
neither

neither better nor worse than a mercenary Town Jilt, who being pretty well known herself, and consequently despised, wanted something new to produce to her Customers.

I think, I never saw any Person in my Life who did not possess one good Quality, except this Creature; for Woman is a Term too gentle for her, who had not even Decency to hide her Shame.

To give my Reader a Taste of her Cleanliness: She told me herself she had not combed her Head for three Years, which, I believe, was true, because she was not Mistress of a Comb, except when she made free with mine, than which nothing could be more offensive to me, so that her Hair, though naturally fine, being quite matted on a filthy Hair-cap, seemed to be a Composition of raw Silk and Moss, such as I remember to have stolen a Lock of from the Head of Good Duke *Humphrey*, at *St. Albans*, three hundred Years after his Death; Shifts she had two as yellow as Canvas, but they were sleeveless, no Matter for that, she sold ready made Cambrick Sleeves, and could easily pin on a Pair, for she never took any farther Trouble about them; I think I must for the rest refer my Reader to the Lady's Dressing-Room, for

*In such a Case few Words are best,
And Strephon bids us guess the rest.*

I really, till I saw this Wretch, imagined the Dean had only mustered up all the dirty Ideas in the World in one Piece, on Purpose to affront the Fair Sex, as he used humorously to stile old Beggar-women, and Cinder-Pickers.

This makes me digress to relate a Compliment of his to some Ladies, who supped with him, of which I had the Honour to be One: The Dean was giving us an Account of some Woman, who, he told us, was the nastiest, filthiest, most stinking old B—ch that ever was yet seen, except the Company, Ladies! except the Company! for that you know is but civil. We all bowed, could we do less?

From the Time I had the Misfortune of being her Tenant, she invited every Person she had any Acquaintance with to see me, as though I had been some outlandish Monster, or wonderful Curiosity. Amongst the rest, she prevailed on the now L—d Ch—f J—st—ce E——e, then a Student in *Gray's Inn*, a fine Gentleman, poetically turned, and somewhat too much upon the effeminate or delicate Order, to bear whatever was not quite refined, to venture into her Dining-Room,

Room, where I sat scribbling ; I was for retiring, but that was not permitted : The Gentleman who was dressed in black Velvet, and had the Air of a Person of Distinction, said, he hoped as his Visit was intended entirely to me I would not be so unkind as to refuse it.

I said, I did not know how I was entitled to such an Honour ; but since he was pleased to bestow it on me, I should with Gratitude accept of it. My Hostess, for that Name, by her Bulk, far above the common Size of Females, she seemed to deserve, prudently left the Stranger and I to ourselves, under Pretence that she must attend her Shop. Mr. E——e, seeing my Table covered with written Papers, told me, my Room resembled that of a Lawyer, and asked me Leave to read my Contemplations ; to which I agreeing, he had the Complaisance to seem entertained ; when, to my unspeakable Confusion, the Brute returned, and cried, “ What will you treat the Lady with ? ” “ Any thing she chuses,” returned he, and seemed as much confounded as I was ; “ Pray, “ Madam, what do you like ? ” “ Nothing “ at present, Sir, but what I have ordered, “ some Coffee ; ” as it was but Five o’Clock in the Afternoon, and as the Gentleman was remarkable for Sobriety, he approved of my Taste ; He offered to pay for it ; “ I told
I 3 “ him,

“ him, I did not sell it, and that he could not more highly aggrieve me.”

My Landlady sent it up, but did not think proper to partake of our Repast, of which I was very glad; he looked on me with Eyes of great Compassion, especially as he observed the Tears springing from mine, for indeed I was quite shocked; he asked me how I became acquainted with a Person so very unlike myself? I told him, I was a Stranger, and knew very little of her; as he gave Credit to my Words, he advised me to quit her House, assuring me she was a Procuress, and, as he said, kept a Shop only to disguise her real Occupation.

He had scarce finished his friendly Caution, when Madam entered again with two very large Lobsters in one Hand, and a Bottle of Wine in the other, she laid a very foul Table Cloth, dressed her Fish, and invited us to partake; which we refusing, she eat them all herself, drank the Bottle of Wine, and very modestly desired the Gentleman to pay for them, to which he acquiesced.

This Scene made us laugh heartily, for she fed with such keen Dispatch, and drank so often, that she seemed like a starved Pierrot, devouring all before her.

Her Rage of Hunger being now, as we hoped, suppressed, she once more left us; and Mr. E——e said, “ I hope you are now
“ convinced,

“ convinced, Madam, that, at least, your
 “ Reputation will be undone, if you con-
 “ tinue here :” I answered, “ It was but
 “ too true, but that, at present, I saw no
 “ Method of Relief, as she owed me Mo-
 “ ney, which she never was bashful in bor-
 “ rowing, by which means I was ill pro-
 “ vided to remove, and had agreed to take
 “ it out in Board and Lodging.”

Here Madam once more rushed in, when,
 to my great Surprise ! she asked Mr. E——e
 would he give her a roasted Fowl, and Sau-
 sages for Supper ? He told her, after so plen-
 tiful a Meal as she had just made, he was
 sure she did but jest : She affirmed she was
 in Earnest, and that if he would not, there
 was a Gentleman below that wou’d.

Mr. E——e, who had a Mind to hold
 more Talk with me, asked me, what Part
 of the House belonged to me ? She answer-
 ed, with matchless Impudence, a very good
 Bed-chamber, which she supposed, we
 should have no Objection to, as we liked
 each other so well.

I seemed not to take the Meaning of her
 Speech ; and not having the least Apprehen-
 sion of any Incivility being offered to me
 by a Person of good Breeding, and Huma-
 nity ; I told the Gentleman, he should be
 very welcome, if he pleased to walk into
 it,——as it was on the same Floor, he said,

I 4

I did

I did him great Honour, and that he would wait on me.

However, to avoid the evil Comments which wicked Persons, judging others by themselves, are ever ready to make, I left the Door wide open, to the no small Mortification of my Landlady, and her new Guest, as they were obliged to pass by it.

And what should he be, but some drunken Swabber, or Boatswain ! whose Tarpaulin Compliments, of which we heard every Word distinctly, for some time, diverted us ; till, at last, their Talk became so offensive, that, as I had left the Door open, in Point of Decency, I was now on the same Account obliged to shut it.

The Gentleman once more urged the Necessity of my Departure from this villainous Woman ; assuring me, if I would but change my Lodging, and send a Line to him, with a Direction, where to find me, he would do every thing in his Power to serve distressed Merit, as he was pleased to term it.

And that nothing might be wanting to enable me do it, he, in a very polite Manner, obliged me to accept of two Guineas, as a Subscription to my Writings.

This ingenious Gentleman entertained me with the recital of several beautiful poetical Compositions

Compositions of his own, and finding I was not quite tasteless, but, at least, endeavour-
ed to give them due Praise, he stayed
with me till Ten o'Clock, no unseasonable
Hour, as it was in the Month of *June* ;
when, either being hungry himself, or wil-
ling to entertain me, he insisted on my Per-
mission to send to the *Devil Tavern* for
some Supper, a Meal I never chuse, but,
in Complaisance to my Benefactor, and also
as a Means of engaging his farther Conver-
sation, which was truly elegant, I, with
some Reluctance, submitted to. Our one
Maid being gone for t'other Bowl of Punch
for the Sailor, the Gentleman went and be-
spoke it himself.

I could not, in his Absence, but reflect
how much the unhappy Part of Women
disappoint even their own Ends ; for when
they throw off the Appearance of Modesty,
and shew the mercenary Prostitute unveiled,
no Man of common Understanding can have
the least Regard for them ; Mr. *Addison* ob-
serves of some Woman, who kept a noted
House of civil Reception, that she said, no
Girl was fit, even for her, who was past
blushing. Well said the Dean, in the fol-
lowing Lines :

O Decency, *cælestial* Maid !

Descend from Heav'n to Beauty's Aid ;

Tho'

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*Tho' Beauty may beget Desire,
'Tis thou must fan the Lover's Fire,
To bold him in Delusion still,
And make him fancy what you will.*

And I do assure my Reader, I did not forget to return Thanks to the Almighty, who had enabled me to live by his Gifts to me ; for, sure I am, that I could raise no Money by vile Means ;

*By Heav'n, I had rather coin my Heart
for Gold,
And drop my Blood for Drachma's.*

Mr. E——e's Return broke off my Contemplation ; he had ordered a slight, but elegant Repast, with a Flask of *Champaigne* ; we supped together with great Pleasure, and, except the dissonant and unharmonious Noise made by our Neighbours, who were now got so merry, that they did, what they called, sing ; we had no Interruption, but talked of History, Poetry, and every Muse-like Theme ; called all the mighty Dead before us, rejudged their Acts, commented on the Works of *Milton*, *Shakespear*, *Spencer*, and all the *British* Classics.

Refin'd

*Refin'd Delight, and fitted to endure !
But what can human Happiness secure ?*
Delany.

The Star, that ushers in the rosy Dawn,
began to reassume her Empire o'er the dusk,
and drowsy World, the Bell tolled One, a
signal of Departure to my amiable Guest,
whose kind Injunctions, in regard to my Re-
moval, I promised to obey.

The Maid, whom her Mistress half
starved, and though she was really her Bet-
ters, used so ill, that she down-right hated
her, told me that the Sailor and she were
gone to Bed together, both dead drunk.

And yet this Creature would talk of Vir-
tue, nay, go to Church ; but, to say the
Truth, she only went there to pick up a
Gallant.

As I was not in the least sleepy, I dis-
missed the Servant, and

*Revolving in my clouded Soul
The various Turns of things below,
Now and then a Sigh I stole,
And Tears began to flow.*

*I open'd the Window, looked at the Moon
Riding near her highest Noon,
Like One, who had been led astray
Thro' the Heav'n's wide pathless Way ;
And*

*And oft, as if her Head she bow'd,
Stooping thro' a fleecy Cloud.*

In short, I was wrapped in a pleasing Fit of Melancholy, and had I been in the Country, midst vernal Airs, and Blooms, should have attuned my rural Minstrelsy to some high Theme; but, alas! Ease and Retirement, those Friends to the Muse ever were denied to me, being in a populous City pent amidst the busy Hum of Men, obliged to work for daily Bread, and often not obtaining even that poor Pittance.

Oh that I could now retire! that some charitable Hand would bestow on my poor Remains of Life, even but a Clay Habitation in some sequestered Scene, where,

*On ev'ry Thorn delightful Wisdom grows,
In ev'ry Rill a sweet Instruction flows.*

How happy should I think myself!

My Readers will, I hope, acknowledge I deal candidly with them, when I not only acquaint them with my Actions, but reveal to them even the inmost Recesses of my Soul as freely as to Heaven.

At length, remembering that Nature did require a Time of Rest, I thought it but meet to indulge the pleasing Heaviness; or, in

in plainer Language, I went to Bed, and enjoyed the Honey-dew of Sleep, till it was very late in the Day.

It seems the Maid had, on purpose to mortify her Mistress, told her how genteely Mr. *E——e* had entertained me ; which, though she herself had been guilty of such foul Intemperance, and swinish Gluttony, raised her Indignation to such a Height, that she downright affronted me, telling me, I had no Business with her Gallant : Why, said I, sure you had him all to yourself, I did not interfere ; for I supposed she meant honest Tar, but, it seems, I was mistaken, for it was Mr. *E——e*, whom she had so politely dismissed, and whom now she had called a hundred Scrubs ; assuring me, she could never make any thing of him, and really I believed her ; and by what I then saw of her Temper, I am certain, had she known he had made me a Present, I should not have escaped without a good Beating.

Well, said she, at last, I warrant I had a better Chap than your fine Beau ; this was speaking pretty plain, my Man gave me a Crown, and Victuals, and Liquor enough : Now, be sincere, what did that Mr. Maiden give you ? For what, said I, I have nothing to sell ; you who keeps a Shop, and are in the Way of Trade may easily dispose of five Shillings Worth of Goods.

The

The Wretch knew not what Answer to make to me ; to acknowledge herself a Prostitute, as I did not seem to think her one, was too vile, even for her, and to have given but the most remote Hint, that she suspected any evil Correspondence between Mr. *E——e* and me laid her absolutely at our Mercy.

However, she turned off the Discourse with what Mr. *Addison* terms a Horse Laugh, an excellent Expedient to supply the Lack of Brains, and which whoever can secure on their Side are sure of Victory, for who can stand it, let it be ever so injudiciously bestowed ?

This I have very lately experienced, when one *W—dw—rd*, a Player, got the Laugh against me, who never vied with his superior Excellence, only by saying,

*What, shall a Tumbler set me thus adrift,
I the Successor of immortal Swift ?*

Oh that his Words had been true ! that he had bequeathed to me the precious Legacy of his Wit, and Learning.

*Or that, when all sublim'd, he rose to
Heaven,
I had inherited his sacred Mantle ;*
Then

*Then midst the Prophets might I in Strains
Such as delight the Ear of God pour forth
Unfetter'd Harmony.*

But to descend to this terrene Spot : I drest, and wandered forth in Quest of a new Lodging ; not well knowing this Part of the Town, I past through a very clean Court, all inhabited by Jewellers, and just opposite to the End of it saw on the Window, of what they in *London* call a Twist Shop, a Bill up to let the first Floor. The Woman of the House shewed me the Apartment ; the Furniture was not only new but rich, and I concluded the Price would be too high for me ; but, to my great Surprize ! the Woman of the House agreed, not only to furnish me with Linen, but also with Plate and China for Five Shilings a Week ; there was but one Inconvenience which was that there was no Passage into the House, but through the Shop, to which, if they did not object, I had no Cause. It so fortun'd that the Countess of *Essex's* Woman, whom I had known at the Laundress's, before-mentioned, came in, and gave me so high a Character, that we agreed on my taking Possession of my new Apartment the next Day.

I went from this to a Friend's to Dinner, and did not return Home till Ten at Night ;
but

but never in my Life was I more highly provoked, for lo you ! my Landlady, and some Fellow or other were in my Bed ; the Maid never apprized me of it, being willing to expose her brutal Mistress to the utmost, but shewed me into the Chamber.

I am certain, I was infinitely more ashamed than she was, for she called to me to sit down on the Bed-side ; but I hastened out, and, as I could not take up with her Bed, I was obliged to sit up all Night.

Pretty soon in the Morning a Woman came to see me ; she and I packed up my Cloaths, called a Porter, and made him carry them to my new Abode, and, as I hoped never to see the Wretch again, I did not bid her Adieu.

My Landlord was a Master Taylor, in very good Circumstances, and his Wife a very sober modest Woman.

I past a Week over very calmly, when remembering my Promise to Mr. E——e, I wrote a Line to him, but, as I did not know what Street I was in, I enquired of my Landlady, who with very great Reluctance, told me, it was *Drury-lane*. I was extreamly concerned at this Piece of Information, which she observed, and, assured me, I might enquire into her own, and her Husband's Character ; that they had kept their

their Lodgings empty, sooner than let them to any idle Person, though they could have had a good Price for them; and a great deal more to the same Effect; all which, though I did most stedfastly believe, yet I held it no proper Place for me, of all Persons in the World, to reside in.

Women whose Characters are unblemished, or, who have their Husbands with them as Guardians to it, may do a thousand Things, which those who have fallen on evil Days, and evil Tongues, in Prudence must avoid.

I did not directly tell my Landlady that I must leave her, being resolved, if possible, not to remove till I could find a Place where I could be fixed.

Accordingly, I once more took my Way to *St. James's*, and called upon my old Landlady there: Her first Floor was let, but the second being tolerably genteel, we, as we had always been on very friendly Terms, soon made a Bargain for it, and I was to enter on it as soon as my Week for the other was up. The very Air of *St. James's* always pleased me, and indeed I received so many Favours from the Nobility that I had just Cause to prefer it to any other Part of *London*.

This happened to be some public Festival, which, as I did not recollect, I sat with the good old Gentlewoman till Evening, when

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on my Return Home, there was a large Bonfire, and a great Crowd at the Temple-Gate; I stopped a little, being startled, and not well knowing how to pass by, when an old Gentleman very well drest, asked me, where I was going? I told him, which was Truth, I had mistaken my Way, being a Stranger: He said, if I let him know where I lived, he would wait on me Home; I was almost ashamed to do it, yet, considering they were creditable People where I lodged, I ventured to inform him. My Landlord happened to be his Taylor, so he readily conducted me to his House; the People saluted him, and asked him for his Lady and Family: Why, said he, this is one of them, she is a near Relation to my Wife. I was surprized at this new Kindred, and could not tell whether the old Gentleman spoke Truth or not, though I could not recollect I had ever seen him before; yet, as the Landlord treated him with the highest Respect, I thought it not convenient to contradict him, so I invited him in, and wondered where this would end!

My Landlady light us up to my Dining-room; he told her, I had dined at his House, and that after so long a Walk I must needs be dry, and therefore desired her to get him a Bottle of Wine, and a Plate of *Scotch Collops*

Collops from some particular Tavern he directed her to.

As I found the old Gentleman did not stick at telling one Lie, I concluded all he said was false, as it really was.

She no sooner departed, but he asked me, whether he was not an able Politician? I said he was a merry Gentleman, and I hoped as I had the Honour of being his Cousin, he would let me know who he was? lest I should be ask'd any cross Questions, and our Accounts should vary.

He told me his Name, and where he lived; that he had a considerable Estate, and also a good Employment under the Government, all of which did not make him happy, because Heaven had not blessed him with a Child.

He then asked me, who I was? for he said, he was sure I had had a good Education; as I had no Reason to doubt of his Sincerity, I told him my Story, with which he seemed much affected; and in Conclusion, I assured him, I was more unhappy in having Children, from whom, in all Probability, I was for ever separated, than he could be, who never had one.

Here my Landlady brought in Supper, to which he invited her to stay; our Conversation turned on general Topics; it grew pretty late, when, to my great Astonishment, the

Gentleman said, " Cousin, I think you told
 " me, you wanted Money, I have a good
 " deal of your's in my Hands, though not
 " much about me at present ; however,
 " here are a Couple of Guineas, when you
 " want Fifty you know where to come."
 Would I did, thought I, but it was no time
 for me to refuse them.

When he went away I knew not what to
 think of this odd Adventure, sometimes I
 fancied it was a Dream, and dreaded to
 wake, lest the Gold should vanish ; then I
 began to flatter myself that perhaps some
 Relation had left me a Legacy ; but having
 never, since my Distress, received the
 smallest Favour of one of them, I could
 hardly hope they should now feel any com-
 punctious Visittings of Nature, who were all,
 to me, remorseless as the Sea.

In short, the more I thought the more I
 was perplexed, and could only humbly hope,
 that the protecting Hand of him who

——— *Doth the Raven feed,*

Yea, providentially catereth for the Spar-
row,

Assisted me to live for some good End,
Best to his Wisdom known.

So recommending myself to his paternal
 Care,

Care, who had Compassion on my Sorrows, I went to my Repose.

Early next Morning the Woman of the House told me, there was a Lady waiting for me in the Dining-room; so I arose, and who shou'd it be, but my late odious Landlady!

My Reader may judge how welcome she was. She told me, there was a Gentlewoman waiting for me at her House, who had Business of the utmost Consequence, and very much to my Advantage to impart to me: Though I scarce gave Credit to her, yet Curiosity made me accompany her Home, where I beheld a marvellous ill-favoured old Woman, her Chin, which had on it a comely black Beard, almost met her Nose, there not being a Tooth in the Way to bar their Union. I am sure, had *Don Quixote* seen her he would have endeavoured to disenchant her Mustacho's. Her Eyes were black and fierce, her Back nobly prominent, her Dress tawdry, and take her for all in all, I hope I ne'er shall look upon her Like again. I was doubtful, whether it was not a Man in Woman's Cloaths; but if it were a Creature of the Feminine Gender, I concluded it must be a Witch, and that the Study of the Black Art had made her so hairy about the Face, that she had need of a Barber. But to proceed: She accosted me very civilly, in a

deep *Connaught* Brogue, told me she knew all my good Family, and lived in the same Parish with me in *Dublin*; I grew tired of her fulsome Flattery to me and them, and desired to know her Commands; she told me my Lord G—*lw*—y had a great Regard for my Father, and was very desirous of seeing me, — and would be a Friend to me, and if I would dine with her next Day, he would meet me: I now began to guess at my Lady's Occupation, and gave her a point blank Denial; not but that I should have been glad to see his Lordship, as I knew he had a Regard for my Father; but a Woman must appear in a contemptible Light, when introduced to a Nobleman by one of the Devil's Agents. So I left Madam to her Meditations, and departed, to her no small Discomfort, for it was a golden Guinea out of her Way; as, it seems, my Lord's Price was two, one of which he presented to Madam Procurefs, and the other to the Lady who granted him a Favour.

This infernal Embassadress had taken on her the Name of *Cunningham*, being, as she said, ruined by a Gentleman of that Name, who had recommended her to several of the *Irish* Noblemen, as a very necessary Person. Oh how detestable it is to feed a Maw, or cloath a Back by such a filthy Vice!

Well,

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 135

Well, at the appointed Time, I returned to *St. James's*, and the first Day I was there I was honoured with a Letter from Lord *G—lw—y*, as follows :

MADAM,

I Thought I had had the Honour of being known to you, but find I have been imposed upon ; if you will permit me to pay my Respects to you this Evening, I will unfold this Mystery to you, and am very sincerely,

Madam,

Your most obedient Servant.

G.

I returned my Compliments to his Lordship, and gladly accepted of the Honour of his Company.

About Six he came, and related to me the Trick Mrs. *Cunningham* had put on him ; he told me, he had employed her to find me out, having a Curiosity to see a Person he had so often heard of, both at *White's*, and in *Ireland* ; that the Appointment was made, and a Lady introduced to him, whom by his Description of her, I knew to be the

K 4

odious

odious Mrs. *Smith*, my shocking Landlady ; — he said he was much disappointed, when he saw her, but the Lady was very kind ; nay, so kind that he could not resist her.

As you stood at your Window this Morning, Colonel *D—nc—be* asked me, knowing I was one of the Commissioners of *Ireland*, whether I knew you ? I answered, No : — Why, said he, that is a little *Irish* Muse, a Physician's Daughter, and a Parson's Wife, an eloped one I have been told, but she wont confess that ; on this I asked your Name, the Colonel said it was *Pilkington*, but you were usually called Mrs. *Meade* ; I then found I had been deceived, and wrote immediately to you.

I told his Lordship, I had the Honour of having many Representatives, which had been of very great Disadvantage to my Character, inasmuch as they were pretty liberal of their Favours, which were placed to my Account, though I knew nothing of the Matter : My Lord said, that was hard ; but he hoped, now he had found the real Mrs. *Pilkington*, she would not be inexorable. To turn off this Sort of Discourse, I talked of public Affairs, which put my Lord in the Head of making me packet Commissioner *Th—mp/—n*, then Candidate in the Election for the City of *Y—rk*, with Old
English

English Rhymes, after the Manner of Mother *Shipton's* Prophecies, to inform him of the Defeat he was to meet with in that Year. I had the good Fortune to divert him with my comical Stuff so well, that he left me a Task, which was, to translate a *French Chanson à boire* ; he gave me a Couple of Guineas, and promising to be a frequent Visitor, he took his Leave.

I do assure my Readers, I was very glad to be retained as his Lordship's Muse, and Secretary, — an Employment both of Honour, and Profit.

I continued in Favour some Time ; and we bantered half the Nobility, either about their Love-Intrigues, or Parliamentary Affairs, all of which were well known to his Lordship, who honoured me with his Confidence, and Instruction.

But as all Happiness fades away, an unforeseen Accident blasted mine.

My Lord was seized with a Fever, which confined him some Days ; the first Time he was able to go Abroad, he wrote me Word he would pass the Evening with me. About his appointed Hour, somebody tapped at the Dining-room Door, which I opened ; when, instead of my Lord, entered Colonel *D—nc—be*, and Mr. *Sp—nc—r*, whom the Colonel presented to me, and made his *Exit*.

This

This Nobleman was no more like his Brother than I to *Hercules*,—— for the first Thing he did was to double-lock the Door, put the Key in his Pocket, and by main Strength, oblige me to sit on his Knee. I told him, I expected Lord G—*lw*—y, but that had no Effect, for he swore he should not have Admittance; he said, he was as well entitled to a Lady's Favour as any Lord; it was to no Purpose for me to assure him, my Lord never asked any, but what were consistent with Honour: He gave no Credit to my Words, and seeing he had set me a weeping, he said, my Lord was very happy in my Love, but that he was not worthy of it, being an Inconstant; but as for me, added he, I don't come to pay you one Visit, but to make you mine for ever, to raise such Merit above Distress, and to make you as happy as I can.

Sir, returned I, your Goodness deserves my Acknowledgment, but your Meaning seems doubtful, on what Terms am I to receive those Advantages? On the easiest and sweetest in the World, said he, give me your Love in Return, 'tis all I wish, and running on with Lord *Hastings's* Speech, in his Midnight Visit to poor *Jane Shore*, he cried,

Be

*Be kind, my charming Mistress, to my
Wishes,
And satisfy my panting Heart with
Beauty !*

'Twas in vain for me to remonstrate that he had a fine young Lady of his own ; that I was not worth the Pains he took, that I was not handsome : He said, I pleased him, and that to him was Beauty, which he was resolutely determined to possess, if not by Consent, he would make Use of Force.

And truly the Gentleman would soon have convinced me he was the stronger, had not Lord G—lw—y knocked at the Door, he swore I should not open it ; My Lord called to me, and said he would break the Door open. I begged of Mr. Sp—nc—r to permit me to let him in, and that if he would stay a Moment, I would frame some handsome Excuse to dismiss him.

He gave me the Key, and went into the Bed-chamber ; I opened the Door for Lord G—lw—y, who brought with him the Earl of M—dd—x, a fine Gentleman ; Lord G—lw—y was either very angry, or affected to appear so ; and really I knew not what Apology to make, only to say I had been asleep. The Noblemen seated themselves, to the no small Vexation of Mr. Sp—nc—r.

Lord

Lord *G—lw—y* asked me, who was in the Bed-chamber? I said Nobody;—well, Madam, said he, I know you are a Lady of Veracity, but, for once, I presume to doubt it; so saying, he made to the Door, which stood open, and Mr. *Sp—nc—r* clapped it in his Face, double-locked it within-side, and, to my great Happiness, went out of another Door down Stairs; this I was very glad of, being apprehensive of a Quarrel. —

Lord *G—lw—y* was in a violent Passion, and insisted on my telling him what Fellow, as he called him, affronted him? So to satisfy him, I very ingenuously told him the whole Story, to the infinite Mirth of Lord *M—dd—x*, who, I thought, would have died with Laughter, for amongst other Accidents, I had, in the Fray, lost a little *Paris* Cap I wore, and as my Hair was very thick, never missed it.

But whatever I could say would, by no Means, pacify Lord *G—lw—y*, he called me twenty ungrateful Devils, and Jilts, and I know not what, which surprized me the more, as I never in my Life imagined he loved me, and consequently could not, form any Idea of his being jealous; but, I suppose, his Pride was piqued at being locked out, which was the real Cause of his Resentment.

Lord *M—dd—x*, in vain, pleaded my Cause,

Cause, till, at last, an odd Whim of his turned our Tragedy to a Farce.

Lord *M—dd—x*, it seems, liked an *Italian* Singer, on whom Lord *R—ym—d*, a very small Gentleman, with a Mind in Proportion to his diminutive Figure, had wrote a very stupid Satyr; he begged of me to write a Love Letter to him, for he was, it seems, a Man of Gallantry, and his Answer I was to communicate at *White's*.

As I was a perfect Stranger to his Character, the Noblemen dictated a fine Encomium on his Learning, Wit, Poetry, Beauty, &c. all of which united, had, it seems, made a Conquest of me, unheard, unseen, and made me extremely ambitious of being known to so accomplished a Nobleman; we also gave him some Poetry, and a Direction where to find his most enamoured Nymph. This done, the Letter was dispatched away to *Bond-street*, the Messenger brought Word I should have an Answer in the Morning.

I know whoever reads this may very possibly censure me, but all who are dependant on the Favours of the Great, must comply with their Whimsies; it is enough, if we are so conscientious as not to be made a Slave to their Vices, as *R—b—t N—g—t*, Esq; civilly asked me to be.

Now, as I have mentioned this Fellow, for such is the Term his Behaviour to me merits,

merits, who am, in this, in the same Mind with *Pope* *,

*That Worth makes the Man, and Want of
it the Fellow ;
The rest is all but Leather and Prunella.*

I hope my Reader will allow me to give them a short Sketch of him, with Regard to me, and also, of the Mortification I had the Happiness of giving him.

My Father attended his first Wife, Lady *E—ll—a P—k—t*, and, I had, I believe, passed twenty Evenings in his Company, in *Dublin* ; he had published a Poem, written by the Reverend Mr. *Sterling*, called, *Happiness*, as his own, and another on his Conversion from *Popery*, inscribed to *W—m P—y*, now Earl of *B—b*, to whose Piety he was indebted, for his being drawn out of Error. This gave me a fine Opportunity of paying him a Compliment, which I sent to *White's* ; he sent me Word he would wait on me that Evening, and, accordingly he came.

After his first Salutation, he very politely asked me, if I could help him to a *W—*, telling me, he had married an ugly old Devil for Money, whom he hated, and

* I don't mean a Fellow of T. C. D.

wanted a Girl to take into Keeping, which he depended on my Skill to chuse for him : I thanked him for the honourable Employment he recommended to me, but assured him, it was not in my Power to serve him, as I never conversed with Women. He told me, he would not be a Friend to me on any other Terms ; I said, I was sorry for it, so making him a Reverence, I left the Room. He stayed in it some Time, hoping, I suppose, I was gone of his Errand, but finding I did not return, he went away ; but to do him Justice, he left Half a Guinea on the Table, as a Recompence for the Affront he had given me.

He wanted, it seems, to be admitted as a Member of the Club at *White's*; their Way of Election is by ballotting, and one black Bean is sufficient to overturn any Man's Pretension to that Honour. I told my Story so effectually, that they all concluded him unfit for Society, and as many Friends as he imagined he had amongst three hundred Nobles, and, as vast a Fortune as his Wife had brought him, he had but one white Bean in the whole Draught.

However, I return him Thanks for his Ten and Sixpence, to shew my Gratitude.

But, to return to my little Lord *R-ym--d*. Early next Morning, as I was drinking Tea, his Valet de Chambre said he must speak
to

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to me, I desired he might come in; he was a *Frenchman*, who, contrary to the rest of his Country, was as boorish as an *English* Farmer; he threw down a Letter on the Table, "Dere, my Lord send a you dat;" I opened it, and read as follows:

MADAM,

BY your Stile you ought to be a Gentlewoman; but I have met with Things of this Kind, which did not answer Expectation; I have sent my Man to see you, whom I always trust, and so may you; if he likes you, and you will come where I appoint, for I never venture to visit any Woman, I will meet you.

I am,

MADAM,

Your's,

R—YM—D.

While I was perusing this gallant Epistle, the *Frenchman* looked sharp about, he even opened the Corner Cupboard, then he demanded of me what did I want with his Lorde?

Lorde? I could not resist my Inclination to laugh, at which he grew cholerick, and swore, Garzoon, he should never come; which, I being quite easy about, he went away muttering something.

I sent his Letter, which was wrote in a very bad Hand, and almost every Word mis-spelt, to Lord *M—dd—x*, who shewed it to the Company at *White's*, on whom it took the same Effect it had done on me, for they all laughed heartily at *Jack-a-Dandy*, a Nick-name Lord *M—dd—x* had bestowed on him.

These two merry Noblemen, who had set me on this Scheme, would fain have prevailed on me to send another Letter to *Jack-a-Dandy*, but I told them, I did not approve of a Man, governed by his Man, and one who seemed to be a Coward into the Bargain; Lord *M—dd—x* then told me, Lord *R—ym—d* had some Reason to be fearful how he made an Assignment, as he had once the Misfortune to be taken in by a Billet-doux; and, when he went to the appointed Place, instead of a fine Lady, found a Couple of sturdy Fellows, who gave him a very good Cudgelling.

This put me in mind of a merry Story was told me in *London*, of Colonel *C—nn—m*, who took Delight in paying his Addresses to young Ladies, merely for Amusement, and

no sooner did he perceive he had gained their Affection, but he despised his Conquest.

As the Noblemen knew him, I related one Story to them, out of many, for a pleasant Revenge a forsaken Nymph took on him.

This Lady was of exceeding good Birth, very well accomplished, and of unblemished Reputation, but not of Fortune equal to his; however, he seemed so fond, that she supposed that would be no Obstacle, and intirely devoted herself to the Pleasure of loving him; which he no sooner perceived, but he grew cold, civil, and respectful, and at last went to *London*, without so much as bidding her Farewel.

Her Step-father, Brigadier *V—f—y*, having some Call there, took his Lady and her Children with him, where, though Miss *A—t*, for that was the Lady's Name, frequently saw the Colonel at Court, he never took the least Notice of her, but seemed as never acquainted: This, as we may presume, sufficiently grieved her, she made her Complaint to a Female Confidant, a Lady of Quality, and a Woman of Spirit; between them they contrived, at least, to give his Vanity a terrible Mortification.

They wrote to him a Letter, as from a married Dutchess, who was fallen in Love with him at Court, the Chairman had Directions

rections to wait for his Answer, but they took Care that he should not be able to guess who sent it;—all that the Colonel could discover, was, that it was given to him in the Street, and he was ordered to leave the Answer at a Mercers, where it would be safe delivered to the Person who wrote the Letter.

This Secrecy made him quite sure he had gained the Heart of some high-born Fair; he failed not to send a passionate, and tender Return, for so great an Honour, as the unknown Charmer had done him. The Ladies received it, and were glad to find the Gudgeon swallow the Bait so greedily. Next Night he took Care to dress himself with the utmost Magnificence, and, as he is really a graceful Person, he made no Doubt, but the Lady would, by some favourable Glance, discover herself to him; to this End, he went to court, and strictly examined the Countenance of every Lady of Quality there to no Purpose, which only made him suppose the Lady extremely discreet, and, careful of her Reputation.

His imaginary Mistress made several Appointments with him, then sent him Word, her Lord was come to Town, or some Apology, till at last, tired with their Sport, they resolved to finish it.

To this End, he received a Letter, that the Lady could not find out any Place where she could, without Danger of Discovery, meet him, except at his own House, but begged, that he might not let any of his Servants be in the Way; that she would come in a Chair, exactly at Ten, one small Tap at the Door being the Signal for Happiness.

Never did Knight Errant propose to himself more Glory in the finishing of an Adventure, than did our happy Colonel, at his near approaching Bliss, he had framed to himself an Idea of a perfect Beauty, kind, tender, and formed for Love; his Answer was all Rapture, and Acknowledgment.

His Apartments were filled with Wax Lights, himself curled, perfumed, and dressed to such Advantage, who could resist that beheld him? He punctually obeyed the Ladies Commands, in dismissing all the Servants, with Orders not to appear, and waited the happy Minute, with the Impatience of a real Lover; every Moment he looked at his Watch, and, thought the Hours, Ages.

At length the long wished for Signal was given, he flew to receive the fair one, when, a Porter delivered a Band-box into his Hand, and, without speaking a Word to him vanished. Never was any Man in
greater

greater Confusion than he, at opening it, he there found, not only all his own soft Epistles, but also, a little Doll in a Chair, with a Letter in her Hand, directed to him, the Purport of which, was, to let him know he was a conceited Coxcomb, to suppose any Woman of Quality had the least Regard for him, and, that the Lady who held that, was a Mistress good enough for him.

The Noblemen thanked me for my Narration, and, wished the Trick had been put on *Jack-a-Dandy*, such a Lady being a much more suitable Match for him than the Colonel; however, we all agreed, that this was no Tax on the Gentleman's Understanding,

Since, let a Man be ne'er so wise,

He may be caught, with sober Lies.

And, that his Appearance might captivate a Lady, without any Miracle.

Lord M—dd—x did me the Honour to subscribe, and, assured me, he would prevail on as many of his Friends as he could, to do me the same Favour.

Next Day, Colonel *Duncombe* asked me, did I know such a Gentleman of *Ireland*, as *L—ft—s H—e*, Esq; I said I did, particularly well, as my Brother and he were inseparable Companions in the College; he told

me, there were a Parcel of Letters freed by the Earl of *Thomond*, then just dead, lying for him, at *White's*, and, that he should be very glad to see him, to learn some Account of the Particulars of Lord *Thomond's* Death, with whom he had, for many Years a strict Friendship.

As I had learned by Accident, where Mr. *H——e* lived, I wrote to let him know what the Colonel said; he sent me a Letter of Thanks, and, that he would do himself the Honour of meeting the Colonel the next Evening at my Apartment.

It so fortun'd that my kind Benefactor Mr. *Gibber*, came over with the Colonel, and, a little after came Mr. *H——e*; his Politeness, and the many pleasing Incidents of our younger Days, gave me infinite Delight, as it was a Proof that I was not an Impostor, and, convinced the Auditors I had once been in Esteem, even in my own Country.

After a good deal of agreeable Chat, wherein Mr. *H——e* took an Opportunity of mentioning his having, when he was in the College, spent his whole Year's Allowance, in making one grand Ball; and that, as on this Occasion, he was in Disgrace with his own Father, he quartered himself on mine, praising his elegant Manner of living, and the kind Reception he always received

received from him, which, as he said, he must ever acknowledge to his Family; Mr. *Gibber* said, he hoped, as I was the only desolate Person belonging to it, he would be so good as to assist me. He asked, how it was in his Power? Why, returned he, this poor Lady is obliged to publish her Writings by Subscription, and I dare say, a Gentleman of her own Country, who has so fine a Fortune, and knows her so many Years, will, at least, be as kind as Strangers have been to her: Without Doubt, Sir, said Mr. *H—e*, it is the Duty of every Gentleman to do it; so rising, he told me, he was very sorry he was under an Engagement to the Duke of *Devonshire*, but that he would take another Opportunity of paying his Respects to me; which same Opportunity, as he never found in *London*, I hope he will in *Ireland*, and have such a Dependence on his Honour, that I am certain, he will keep it, in being my Friend.

As I had the Honour of being once a kind of a Favourite to Alderman *Barber*, I judged him a very proper Person, both, as he had been a Printer, and was also a Man of considerable Interest, to apply to, both to encrease my Subscription, and, to put me into a Method of getting my Writings printed as cheap as I could; to this End, I wrote him a very respectful Letter, but

received no Answer ; I followed it with a Second, still he was silent ; at length, I found a Method to make him speak to me, for, recollecting the best Part of a very severe Satyr Mr. P———*n* had wrote on him, I let him know I had it, on which, he invited me to his House, received me very kindly, apologized for his Silence, being ill of the Gout, which had hindered him from answering me ; and assured me, as soon as he was able to go abroad, he would present me as a Companion to the Dutcheſs of *Buckingham*, who had promised to take one of his Recommendation, and who, he ſaid, being in the Decline of Life, and having no Children, would, he was certain, if I had the good Fortune to pleaſe her, remember me in her Will ; but unhappily for me, the Alderman died a few Days after, nor did the Dutcheſs long ſurvive him.

So vaniſhed my Hopes.

A ſhort Time after this Diſappointment, which ſenſibly affected me, my Landlady told me, there was an ugly ſquinting old Fellow, who ſaid, he had Buſineſs of the utmoſt Conſequence, and, muſt ſpeak to me ; I bid her ſhew him up, and found he answered her Deſcription, he asked me, was my Name *Meade* ? I ſaid, yes ; why then, ſaid he, I am come to inform you, that
there

there is a Legacy of five hundred Pounds left you by one Mr. *Clark*, who died last Week at *St. Edmondsbury*, but the Lady I was ordered to enquire for is Mr. *P——n's* Wife, are you the Person? I told him the Direction was very right, but that I neither was related to, nor even acquainted with any Person of the Name of *Clark*, from whom I had the smallest Reason to hope for such a Favour: Nay, Madam, returned he, as you have changed your Name, why may not he? Upon this, he shewed me a Letter, to my Fancy authentic, wherein I was desired, if living, to wait on Counsellor *Clark* in *Essex-street*, in the *Strand*, who had Orders to pay me the Money, on Proof I was Mrs. *Pilkington*.

I knew not what to make of all this; I was in Hopes the fickle Goddess, who, is well represented standing on a Wheel, was, for once, in a good Humour with me, and was resolved to make me Amends for her former Caprice, or, to speak more seriously, that the Supreme Almighty Being, that Power, who

*Builds Life on Death, on Change, Duration founds,
And gives th' eternal Wheels to know their Rounds,*

had taken Compassion on my Sufferings.

While

While I was lost in musing on this odd Adventure, the old Fellow asked me very gaily, if I would give him my Company to *Richmond*, and take a Dinner with him? I told him, I never went abroad with Persons I did not know, especially Men; he told me, he was very capable of being serviceable to me, and, that it was also in my Power to be so to him; in what, Sir? Why, I have received from *Ireland*, from your Husband, the Life of Alderman *Barber*, wherein there is an Account of the Amours of *Cadenus* and *Vanessa*, to which the Alderman was privy, and related them to Mr. P———n: Now I have been informed you have some Letters of the Dean's, which may embellish the Work; and also, a true Character of the Alderman, written by his Chaplain; I will make you a handsome Consideration for them, if you will give them to me to publish.

This Discourse, surprized me almost as much as the first; I therefore begged, he would not hold me any longer in Suspence, but let me know who I conversed with? He answered, his Name was *Edmond Curl*, upon which, in spite of Vexation, and, the Disappointment of my new-born Hope, I could not forbear laughing at the fine Scheme he had laid, to trick me out of any valuable Manuscripts I might possibly possess;

possess ; so making him a Courtesy, I said, farewell, Legacy !

I should not trouble the Reader with this Story, but that I have been charged with writing the Life of the Alderman ; and, as I shall answer it to God, I never even saw it in my Life, not but Curiosity would have engaged me to read it, especially, as I heard it was very well wrote ; but, at the Time it was published, I was a Prisoner in the Marshalsea, and really had not a Crown to spare for a Book.

As Mr. *Curl* swore heartily that his Letter, with regard to the Legacy, was genuine, I went the next Day to Counsellor *Clark* ; there was indeed an old Gentleman of his Name newly dead, at *St. Edmondsbury*, who had Children, and Grand-children, Heirs at Law, sufficient to inherit his Fortune, and, as it happened, he died intestate.

However, I comforted myself that Mr. *Curl* had not made a Fool of me, as he has done of many a better Writer, and secured me a Prisoner in his poetical Garret, which the ingenious Mr. *Fielding* charmingly ridicules.

But oh the dismal Summer, which ever was attended with Want, and all it's gloomy Train, not only to me, but many Persons who seem in good Circumstances, left me quite

quite desolate, and obliged me to take a cheaper Lodging, which I did in the House of one Mrs. *Trifoli* in *Duke-street*, *St. James's*, a most extraordinary painted up, bedizened-out old Woman, whose Husband was a *German Quack*, not then in *England*, from which, it seems, his Wife had obliged him to fly, for robbing her of a Deed of Settlement he had made to her at Marriage; but to say the Truth, I think that was a Blessing to the poor Man, for she was a very Devil-incarnate, unmerciful and cruel to the last Degree. I dare say, she never in her Life gave even a Cup of Water to the Poor, or a Morsel of Bread for the Sake of the Lord.

Her Custom was to live upon her Lodgers, even when she knew they were desolately poor, insomuch that if one of them sent but for a Pint of small Beer, she would intercept it in the Way, and drink half of it; but indeed she was very civil, for she always sent them Word, she drank their Healths, and so she did in reality, yea, their very vital Blood.

Being sadly distressed, by this avaritious Wretch, I was advised to apply to Doctor *Mead*, who was a Man of Taste, and had sixty thousand Pounds left him, to give in such Charities as he thought proper. Accordingly, I wrote him a moving Tale of my

my Distress, which had so good an Effect,
that he sent me Word, he would wait on
me himself the next Day, but not keeping
his Word, I addrest him in the following
Lines :

To Doctor MEAD.

SCARCE was the heavenly Virgin higher
blest,
When visited by a celestial Guest ;
Hail'd by the glorious Messenger of Grace,
And honour'd high above the human Race,
Scarce stronger Rapture cou'd his Words im-
part,
Than those which lately extasy'd my Heart,
When You, God's noblest Image here
below,
Your honour'd Presence promis'd to bestow ;
My Hope reviv'd, I wak'd the silent String,
The Muse, once more, attun'd her Voice to
sing,
Pleas'd, that tho' long deprest by adverse
Fate,
She yet found Favour with the Good, and
Great,
And that her melancholy flowing Strain
To Gen'rous MEAD, was not addrest in
vain.

Oh,

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Oh, Thou, the Muses Judge, the Muses
Friend !
Say, must those Hopes in Disappointment
end ;
Must ev'ry beauteous, bright Idea fade,
And Death enwrap me in his silent Shade ?
Death, the poor suff'ring Wretches last Re-
lief,
Led in by pale-ey'd Want, and pining
Grief.

Would Heav'n but one assisting Friend
supply !
How quickly might he bid those Sorrows
fly ?
Whose Wisdom cou'd my Industry direct,
And as that merited his Aid, protect ;
Not thus with endless Application griev'd,
And tho' so oft supported, ne'er reliev'd.

Pardon the bold Presumption of my
Pray'r,
Courage is oft extracted from Despair ;
The drowning Wretch struggles for Life a-
while,
Nor God, nor Man condemns his anxious
Toil ;
But if tempestuous Billows round him
rise,
And Heav'n all Pity, all Relief denies,
Lost in the Ocean, he forgotten dies. }

I sent

I sent these Rhymes to the Doctor, and, in Return, was desired to come to his House, in *Ormond-street*, at Four o' Clock that Afternoon.

Now were my Hopes high raised, high, as the Spring Tide, to which the Ebb quickly succeeds, as it did with me ; I fancied, vainly fancied ! at least ten Guineas in my Pocket, and had, like the Man, with his Basket of Glasses, turned them into Trade, and purchased in my Mind an easy Subsistence for Life ; but I was a little mistaken in the Matter, as the Squel will shew. I drest myself very neatly, and waited on the Doctor ; when I knocked at his Door, a Footman with his Mouth very full, and a Bone in his Hand, opened it, and, in an *Irish* Accent, demanded my Business ? I told him, I wanted to speak to the Doctor : “ By my own Shoul, said he, my Maishter “ will not be spoke to by Nobody ! ” Well then, Friend, if you please to let him know Mrs. *Mead* is here, I believe he will speak to me : “ Mishtish Maide, replied he, “ Arah, are you vanting Charity, and taakes “ up my Maishter's Name to claim Kin “ with him ; well, stay there, I'll tell “ him.” So he went into a Back-parlour, but was quite confounded, when the Doctor instantly came out, and gave him a severe

Reprimand

Reprimand for letting me stand in the Hall ; and I am very certain, had I thought it worth my While to have acquainted the Doctor with his Insolence he would have been discharged. A proper Caution to Liverly-wearing Fellows to speak with Civility to every Body.

The Doctor shewed me into a handsome Street-parlour, adorned with several Curiosities, of which here needs no Account : He asked me for Sir *John Meade*, whom, because he remembered, he expected I should, though he died two Years before I was born ; when I told him so, he seemed displeased : And really I remember that Good Mr. *Cibber*, in his pleasant Way, scolded me once for not remembering King *Charles II.* though my Father was born in the Reign of King *William*.

As my Answers to the Doctor, with relation to the whole Family of the *Meade's*, were sufficient to convince him I was not an Impostor, he asked me, how he could serve me ? I told him, I had some Poems to publish, but for Want of a little Money to pay for the printing of them, I could not proceed : " Poems, returned he ; why, did " you ever know any Person get Money by " Poetry ? " Yes, Sir, several ; Mr. *Pope*, " in particular : " Oh Lud, Lud, (said " ~~he,~~ grinning horribly, and squinting hi-
" deously,)

“ deoufly,) what Vanity thou haft, can
 “ you write like him ?” I was quite abash-
 ed, and really knew not what to fay, for
 ſome Moments, for my Reader may eaſily
 perceive I could not but be ſenſible I had
 made a fooliſh Speech, unaware to myſelf;
 however, upon Recollection, I aſſured him
 I did not preſume to put myſelf in any
 Degree of Compariſon with ſo juſtly an ad-
 mired Writer, but that perhaps, on Account
 of my Sex, I might find a little Favour.

Well ſaid he, there are a Couple of Gui-
 neas for you : This, though far ſhort of my
 Expectations, was a little preſent Relief,
 and, as the Gentleman was under no Oblig-
 ation to reward or encourage me, I very
 gratefully accepted of them, and yet

*Proud was the Muſe I ſerv'd, unbred to
 wait
 A willing Stranger at a Great Man's
 Gate !*

And here, gentle Reader, give me Leave to
 trefpaſs a Moment on your Patience, to make
 one Remark, which is that, amongſt all the
 Perſons who are celebrated for being charitable,
 I never met one really ſo ; and the moſt
 humane, and beneficent are thoſe whoſe
 Characters have been ſo attacked for their

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Humanity, that, at last, they have even been ashamed of well-doing.

I remember Doctor *Swift* told me he saw a Beggar attack a Bishop, who charitably, from his Abundance, spared him an Half-penny, and said God bless you ; presently after he attacked Brigadier *Groves*, who threw Half a Crown to him, and bade God—n him ; which, said he, do you think the Beggar prayed for at Night ?

But as I have mentioned Doctor *Meade*, who was so much in Love with Mr. *Pope*, for saying,

And Books for Meade, and Rarities for Sloane.

I think I must give them also a Sketch of Sir *Ha—s*, to whom the Doctor advised me to apply, as an Encourager of Arts. I travelled down to *Chelsea* to wait upon him ; it snowed violently, insomuch that I, who had only a Chintz Gown on, was wet to the Skin : The Porter, *memorandum*, better bred than his Master, to whom I had sent up a Compliment, which, as he did not deserve, I shall not do him the Honour to insert, invited me into his Lodge, where, after about two Hours Attendance, I was, at length permitted to enter to his Supreme Majesty ; but sure the Pope himself, in all his pontifical

tifical Robes, never was half so proud. I was conducted by an Escort through six, or seven Rooms, one of which was entirely wainscotted, if I may so term it, with China, but, like the Idol to whom a stately Temple was consecrated, which a Traveller, attracted by it's outward Magnificence, thought to find an adorable Deity in, and on Search, found a ridiculous Monkey ; so, I saw an old Fellow, whom I am very well convinced never saw me, for he did not even vouchsafe to turn his Eyes off a Paper he was writing, to see who came in, till, at last, a Beggar-woman entered, with a sore eyed Child; the Inside of whose Eyelids he very charitably tore out with a Beard of Corn, under which cruel Operation the Girl fainted, but he said that was good for her : It may be so, for by two-headed *Janus*, Nature has framed strange Doctors in her Time.

*Some, who will bid us live on Pulse, and
Water ;*

*And others, of such Vinegar Aspect,
They would not wag their Jaws in Way of
Smile,*

Tho' Nestor swore the Jest were laughable.

Of this latter Sort was Sir *Ha—s*. Though I had sent him up a Letter which lay before him, he asked me, what I wanted ? if I

had bad Eyes he said he would brush them up for Charity ; but, as they happened to be tollerably good, I excused myself, by telling him, I had brought him that Letter ; and indeed I was quick-sighted enough to find out, that his Honour (as the Beggar-woman called him) was a conceited, ridiculous imperious old Fool. ——— He then considered my Letter over, and finding, by the Contents, Doctor *Mead* had recommended me to him, said, “ Poor Creature ! “ I suppose you want Charity ; there’s “ Half a Crown for you.” I could hardly resist a strong Inclination I had to quoit it, as *Falstaff* says, into his Face, like a Three-penny Shovel-groat ; and was only constrained by the Consideration, that I had ne’er a Shilling in my Pocket, and that, little as it was, I could eat for it.

I have here done with the Great Sir *H—ns Sl—ne*, B—r—n of *O—k—m*, and return to Doctor *Meade*.

I had forgot to tell my Readers, that rejoicing at my Success, when I returned from his House, I threw the two Guineas up, and had the Misfortune to lose one in a Chink of the Room ; the Board my Landlady would never permit me to remove, lest, as she said, I would spoil her Floor. This trivial Accident gave me a great deal of Uneasiness, as it put me out of Power of
paying

paying, and quitting her according to my Intention.

However, as I was obliged to live by my Wits, which, indeed were almost at an End; I formed a Scheme to write a Panegyric on *P——p* Lord *H——k*, then newly created *L——d H——h C——r* of *E——d*. I did not address him in the Manner I had done a great many of the Nobility, that is, with my one Poem, which I sent all round, like the Bishop's Pastoral Letter; it was, as *Swift* says,

————— *In another Reign,*
Change but the Name, 'twill do again.

I wrote a Fire new one for himself, which was really paying him a higher Compliment than he deserved, as my Readers may perceive hereafter. I had completed the Poem, and sent it to him; he desired me to come to him on *Sunday*, that being his only leisure Time.——

Accordingly, I waited on him at Eight o' Clock on *Sunday* Morning; the House had rather the Appearance of Desolation and Poverty, than that of the *L——d Ch——ll——r* of *Br——n*: He had Complaisance enough to send his Mace-Bearer to keep me Company till such Times as a Pair of Folding-doors flew open, and my Lord appeared in his

Robes, ready to go to Church ; he bowed down to the Ground to me, and asked me, if I would drink a Dish of Chocolate with him ? which you may not doubt I accepted of ; and was surprized to find myself, though sunk in the most abject Poverty, sitting with so great a Man !

So, for my Labour, I got a Dish of * Chocolate, which I now return, with the utmost Humility, to his L—d—p again.

So, my Lord went to Church, where I also went ; I there saw Doctor *Meade*, who, perceiving his Lordship made me a low Bow, made one four times as low ; and I could very hardly refrain laughing at them both, and thinking

—————*That all this World's a Stage, and
All the Men and Women merely Actors ;*

And that

*If ev'ry just Man, that now pines with
Want,*

*Had but a moderate, and beſeeming Share
Of that, which lewdly pamper'd Luxury
Now heaps upon ſome Few, with vaſt Ex-
ceſs ;*

Nature's

* *Mem. Chocolate*, a Word uſed by a very eminent Comedian, one Mr. *Foot*, for Satire.

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Nature's full Blessings would be well dispenc'd

In unsuperfluous even Proportion,

And she, no Whit encumber'd by her Store :

*And then the Giver would be better thank'd,
His Praise due paid ; for swinish Gluttony
Ne'er looks to Heav'n, amidst his gorgeous Feast ;*

*But, with besotted, base Ingratitude,
Crams, and blasphemes his Feeder.*

Milton's Comus.

Well, I could find no Remedy for the Consumption of my Purse, nor borrow, to linger out the Disease, any where, but from the Pawn-Broker, but he was always charitable.

However, I concealed my Distress with the utmost Care from my Landlady ; called every Morning for the Tea-kettle, though I had no Tea ;—— then I said I was engaged to dine Abroad, and took a solitary Walk to *Westminster Abbey*, —— and ranged the solemn Isles alone, envying those who rested in Peace from their Labours ; till, at last, having been three Days, and three Nights without Food of any Kind, Heaven pardon me ! a melancholy Thought came into my Head, that it was better die at once,

M 4

than

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than die daily ; and that, as I could not far-
dles bear, it was best to make my own
Quietus, and no longer strive to keep up a
frail, and feverish Being : And here, indeed,
I own, I had been unmindful of the Crown
which Virtue gives,

*After this mortal Coil, to her true Ser-
vants.*

Despair vanquished me quite ; nay, so art-
ful was the Enemy, as even to persuade me,
I had a Right to dispose of my own Life,
especially when there did not seem, even a
Possibility of preserving it. Filled with gloomy
Ideas, I took my usual Walk, and took
Notice of the Corner, between the Monu-
ments of *Shakespear* and *Rowe*, where I
wished to be interred, and that *Mr. Pope's*
Lines,

*How lov'd, how honour'd, once avails me
not,*

To whom related, or by whom begot ;

An Heap of Dust alone remains of me,

'Tis all I am, 'tis all the Proud shall be.

might be my Epitaph. I really found Room
for Meditation, even to Madness.

In

In this Temper I went into *St. James's Park*, and seated myself by *Rosamond's Pond*; the Moon, apparent Queen, unveiled her peerless Light, and I waited in the silent Shade, resolved to execute my dreadful Purpose, as soon as I could do it without Observation, when a young Lady, and an old one, both very well dressed, seated themselves by me; they, in an elegant Stile, began to praise, the sweet and solemn Beauties of the Moon-light Scene, the Winds gently whispered through the fragrant Lime-trees, just then in full Flower; and, indeed, though they were not vernal Airs, they might have dissipated all Anguish, but Despair: Finding, that notwithstanding my Taciturnity, the Ladies would enter into Conversation with me, I could not, in Point of good Breeding, refuse to return them Answers, with as much Politeness, as I was Mistress of, till at length, we were so pleased with each other, that Time insensibly flying, we found we were locked into the *Park*; but the Ladies, whose Garden opened into it, insisted on my accompanying them to Supper.

We were let in at a Back-door, by a Servant in Livery, to a very genteel House, where, on a Sopha, sat a very handsome Man in a Gold Brocade Nightgown, to whom the young Lady presented me,

me, and said, he was her Spouse ; the Cloath was ready laid, and a cold Supper on the Table : I would very fain have prevailed on the Lady to permit me to go through her House home, for I could easily perceive, the Gentleman's Civility was quite forced, and, that he was impatient to revenge on his Wife the Liberty she had taken of inviting a Stranger in ; which indeed, I believe, she did on no other Account, but, that she thought Decency would prevent him from giving her a Beating, of which, it seems, he was very liberal, though he was but a Footman, when the Lady married him, and threw herself, and twenty thousand Pounds away upon him, as I afterwards learned.

But, as the late Earl of *Pembroke* observed, when he was told a Maid of Honour, who was very handsome, was in Love with him, notwithstanding he was an old Hump-back'd Man, but one of infinite Wit, said, " Faith, it may be so, Women " have strange Fancies !"

I, though foodless, never spent three Hours more disagreeably, especially, as this House brought back to my Mind, the Fear and Terror I always felt in Mr. P——n's, to which, if my Father, Mother, or any Friend came, it threw me into Agonies, be-
ing

ing well assured, they would never depart without receiving some gross Affront, such as the two following Stories, trivial as they are, may serve to illustrate.

One *Alballow's* Eve, a Night of Pleasure and Disport in *Ireland*, among the young Maidens and Batchelors, my Brother and Sister, who had invited some Persons, agreeable to their own Age, to celebrate it with them, very fairly begged of us, old Folks, to go abroad, to oblige them, and myself also; I begged of Doctor *Delany*, who dined with us, and my Father and Mother, to come home with me, and try if we could not be as chearful as they: I no sooner propos'd the Scheme than they all agreed to it; as my Father was no Supper-Man, I had ordered a Custard to be made for him, and, having a bastable Oven, it was put into it to bake.

While we were amusing ourselves in agreeable Chat, entered Mr. *P——n* like the Description of Winter,

Striding the gloomy Blast!

and, observing a Smoak, occasioned by the lighting of the Oven, he descended to examine the Contents thereof, found the Custard, eat most Part of it, and sent the Remainder out of Doors, telling us to
our

our Faces, we should not liquor our Chops at his Expence ; though, *memorandum*, my dear Father always sent his Supper and Wine before him, whenever he vouchsafed us the Honour of a Visit.

The second Instance of my Spouse's Good-nature, was, that though he had no less than thirteen Hens, he knowing I liked a new laid Egg for my Supper, watched the Hen-roost close, and every Egg was in a Basket sent to the Widow *W—rr—n*, covered with a Damask Napkin, of which, she got no less than eighteen given to me by Brigadier *Meade* : At length, one Evening, when my Husband was abroad, my Brother and Sister came to visit me ; when the Clock struck Ten, I concluded Mr. *P——n* would not come home to Supper, and I had the Impudence to eat two Eggs ; they were scarce down, when he came in, my Brother had sent for a Bottle of Wine, and invited his Reverence to drink a Glass, but * he scorned us, and our vile Insinuations ; and as he always kept an exact Reckoning for his Poultry, he very magisterially ordered his Eggs to be got ready ; this was a Thunder-clap to me ; however, as it was in vain to attempt to hide my Guilt, I was forced to confess

* *Mem.* He says, in one of his Letters, that the Nobility scorned me, and my vile Insinuations, and Impudence.

confess the horrid Fact; upon which, he stood aghast, as though he had seen Churchyards yawn, and Hell itself breath forth Contagion to the World.

What, said he, did you eat my black Hen's Egg? Could not any other satisfy your dirty Guts? I wish the Devil was in the Egg, and that it had choaked you.

I answered, he had preferred his charitable Wish too late; and, lest it should take any Effect, I drank a Glass of my Brother's Wine, that I might digest all together.

Oh, let the World judge, how happy I was! but to return.

Though my *Park* Adventure, had diverted the Execution of my sad Scheme for one Evening, yet, as it had brought me no Relief, I still kept my Purpose, and resolved to fulfil it the next: To this End, I came and sat in the same Place; I made several Attempts to throw myself in, and still, when I came near the Water, the Fear of something after Death, puzzled the Will; I examined my Heart strictly, to know what gross Offence I had ever committed, that it should

Please Heaven, to try me with Afflictions,

To

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*To steep me in Poverty, up to the very
Lips ;*

*Give to Captivity, me, and my utmost
Hopes.*

For, had I ever refused my Morsel to the Hungry, or ever filled the Widow's Eyes with Tears, I should not wonder at it. Quite lost in these melancholy Reflections, I was waked as from a Dream, by a very well dressed Gentleman, who tapped me on the Shoulder, and said, Lord, can this be Mrs. *Pilkington*? I looked at him earnestly, and, recollecting I had seen his Face before, answered, it was all the Remains of her that was Mrs. *Pilkington*; may I presume, Madam, to ask, on what Intention you are sitting here? I fancy, he perceived by my Looks, the Disorder of my Soul, which, I believe, was strongly pictured there; I begged he would leave me to myself,—but he insisted on my going along with him to the Royal Vineyard, which was not far off; it was in vain to refuse him, he would take no Denial. When we were got about half Way, I very seriously demanded of him, who he was? He answered, he was Captain *Hamilton*, who had once the Honour of seeing me at my Uncle *Van Lewen's* in *Cork*, and who should think himself very happy, if it was any Way in
his

his Power to serve me ; we got a cold Fowl and some Ham, of which I eat a little, and took a Glas or two of *Champaigne*, and I found it revive me very much : We then fell into Discourse, and, I very sincerely related to him my unhappy Situation, and the Peril his Appearance had delivered me from. My Story affected him so much, that it drew Tears from him ; after we had regaled ourselves ; it growing late, we left the *Park*, and he was so kind, to see me to my Lodging ; where, putting a Couple of Guineas into my Hand, we parted, and he promised to see me next Morning, but I saw him no more.

I am sure, when Mr. P——n comes to this Part of my Story, he will wish the Gentleman had been buried, sooner than he should do him so ill an Office, as that of saving my Life ; but I, among other Things, was born to let the World see, what the Inside of a Priest is made of ;

*Prompt, or to stab, or saint, to save, or
damn ;*

*Heav'ns Swifs, who fight for any God,
or Man !*

Pope.

Take Notice, I always except the good and valuable Part of the Clergy, whom Nobody
more.

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more highly respects, and honours, than I sincerely do; for, when they possess, like *Berkley*, every Virtue under Heaven, who can refuse it?

I once more began to believe myself under the Favour and Protection of the Almighty; as his Hand, though to me invisible, visibly led me through various Mazes, perplexed with Error; and determined, whatever Sufferings he was pleased to inflict, to bear them with Resignation, and never permit them to triumph over a Christian Faith.

And, a severe and cruel Trial of my Constancy I quickly experienced; there was a young Woman, who lodged in the Garret, whom I not only to the uttermost of my Power supported, as she was my Countrywoman, and in great Distress, but also, as she said she was related to the Lord *Powercourt*; her Maiden Name, as she told me, was *Craggs*; his Lordship may better know whether this was true or false, than I can presume to do, however, I had often made her a Confidant to my Distress, which she as constantly revealed to my inexorable Landlady, who one Day pretending great Compassion, told me, what a Snake I harboured in my Bosom, and said, as she had learned from her, that I had several valuable Things in Pawn, she would release them,
and

and keep them in her own Hands, till such Time as I could pay her the Trifle I owed her; I thought this a kind Offer, and with great Acknowledgment accepted of it: Oh! what a Fool was I, to suspect such a *few* of any Remorse? I gave her a Line to the Pawn-broker, empowering her to receive whatever he had of mine, and out of my two Guineas paid her one. She laid out two Guineas, took the Goods into her own Hands, and e'er she came home, took out a Writ against me, for the Money she had paid for them.

This was of a *Friday*, it rained excessively all Day, to which I attributed both her staying, and the extreme Lowness and Dejection of Spirit, I laboured under; I called to Mrs. *Craggs* to bear me Company, but, as she had told my Christian Name to my Landlady, in order to have me properly arrested, she did not think convenient to come to me.

At length, the old Beldam returned, and, in a merry Way, asked me, did not I think she had run away with my Things? I answered, no—they were not worth her while; she complained of being very dry, upon which, I was weak enough to treat her with some Porter. My Reader will please to observe, I was at this Time employed in writing a Tragedy, called, *The Roman Fa-*

ther, from the Story of *Virginus* and *Virginia*, two Acts of which I had finished ; but, as at the same Time there were two bad Plays wrote on that Subject, I did not think proper to go on with it ; it was lying on my Window, and after some Chat with the old Woman, being very much depressed in Spirit, I went to Bed : Early next Morning, to my no small Surprize, entered a Couple of ill-favoured Fellows, the Sight of whom struck Terror to my Soul ; I demanded their Business, one of them answered, “ Get up, “ you *Irish* Papist Bitch, and come along “ with us.” The other, who had employed himself in looking over my Papers, cried, “ Ay, the *Irish* W——e, here is some- “ thing about some *Roman* Father, that’s “ the Pope, and be damn’d to you, is it ?” I was for some Time quite speechless, but, when I recovered Strength enough to speak, I begged of them to leave the Room, till I put on my Cloaths, but my Landlady coming in at that Instant, cried, “ You’re “ damn’d modest ;—don’t quit the Place :” The Fellows, who had more Decency than she, looked out at the Window, while I dressed myself, in which Time, my Agony was inconceivable ; they called a Coach, and thrusting me into it, conveyed me to the House of an Officer of Mace at *Charing-Cross* ; as I happened to have a Guinea in my

my Pocket, I called for a Room, and a Pint of Wine, and then considered, if I had one Friend, I could apply to; my dear Mr. *Cibber* was out of Town, as were likewise most of the Nobility; however, I saw young Mr. *Cibber* go by the Window, and sent to him, but like all the World, when he heard my Condition, he would not come near me: My whole Debt was forty Shillings; Oh, what could I do, but give my Tears vent! which was my only Relief; and, next Day after, paying twenty Shillings, I was conveyed to the Marshalsea Prison: I sat within Side of the Lodge for some Minutes quite stupified, till at length, a Man came, and asked me, if I was a Prisoner, which, it seems, he did not before know, I told him I was, upon which he brought me into a Room, where a Parcel of Wretches seized me, and sung a long Song about Garnish, and were going to pull my Clothes off, till a Servant who had seen me before, said, "For God's Sake don't use Doctor *Meade's* Wife ill;" upon this, a most ugly Woman came up, and said, "G—d d——n you, you B——h, do you pretend to be Doctor *Meade's* Wife?—I am his Wife;" I begged to be heard, which was granted, I told her my Name was *Meade*, and my Husband a Clergyman in *Ireland*, "oh, that's a different Case,"

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said she, going off. They were kind enough to take my Word for some Drink, and a good decent Woman said, she would accept of me for a Chum, as they call it; she brought me into a little dirty Apartment, where, without examining any Thing, I in Despair, threw myself down on a Bed, I saw there, and resolved never to rise again: Three Days and Nights past, during which Time, I never tasted Food of any Sort; at length, the Companion of my Misery, pressed me to take a little Refreshment, which I was persuaded to do, and seeing so many People in my own Condition, at length reconciled me to think of making myself as easy as possible; and leave myself to the Disposition of Divine Providence: One Morning a Friend came to visit me, with whom I sent a Letter to Doctor *M—de*, telling him my Distress, and amongst other Things, these Lines:

CAN, alas! the plaintive Pray'r
 Dictated by Grief sincere,
 Hope to reach a friendly Ear;
 Will thy kind and bounteous Heart
 Sympathize while I impart;
 Such Affliction as before,
 Never hapless Woman bore.

I made

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I made no doubt but I should be relieved,
and waited impatiently for the Answer,
which was as follows :

To Mrs. MEADE, in the Marshalsea.

Ormond-street, October 16, 1742.

MADAM,

I Have so many Applications for Charity,
that it is impossible for me to relieve all ;
those from your Country alone are very nu-
merous : The Family of the *Meades* there,
are very rich, and should take Care of their
needy Branches ; I have, for the last Time,
sent you a Guinea.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

R. M.

I kept the Original of this by me, with
a Resolution, when I should these unlucky
Deeds relate, not to omit it ; but this was
soon gone, I had many to satisfy : I then

N 3

wrote

wrote to *Henry Furnese*, Esq; who in a polite Manner, sent me a Guinea, which doubled the Obligation ;

*For, oh ! believe me, 'tis a dreadful Task
To generous Minds to be compell'd to ask ;
More dreadful still to have a Suit deny'd,
Or take a niggard Alms, giv'n with Contempt, and Pride.*

I was by this supported, till my dear Mr. *Cibber* came to Town, who was no sooner acquainted with my Misfortune than he sent me a Guinea all changed into Sixpences, lest it should tempt some one to pick my Pocket; this was an Instance of singular Humanity; but he has often said, when he did good to People in Distress, it was only to ease his own Mind, which would otherwise have been on the Rack; oh, Heavens! what innate Goodness must dwell in that Breast? Seeing the Woman, that accused me for being the Doctor's Wife, lying dead drunk in the Puddle, I asked my Companion, who she was? Madam, I'll tell you; she was a Servant to Doctor *M—de*, who had a Child by her, and supported her in his House for some time; at length, they parted, and he was to allow her five Guineas a Week: But the Doctor marrying his present Lady, began to be remiss in his Payments, which
enraged

enraged Madam to such a Degree, that, forgetting Decency, she went to his House, and in Presence of all his Servants, abused, and exposed him to the utmost of her Power.

Upon this the Doctor stepped into his Chariot, and ordered it to drive to her Lodging, where, finding she was indebted to her Landlord, one Mr. *Bradst—t*, famous for being a Spy for the D—— of C——d; he desired him to arrest, and put her in Jail: This artful Fellow alledged, it would be very expensive; but the Doctor having Charity-money enough to supply such Exigencies, said, he valued not the Expence, so she was secured. Upon this the poor Wretch was arrested, and thrown into Jail; and from time to time, *Bradst—t* got three hundred Pounds from the Doctor for keeping her there; till, at length, the Doctor growing weary of the Expence, consented to her Release; but she had so entirely devoted herself to drinking, that she died a few Days after she obtained her Liberty.

And so, let this be booked, among other of his good Works, such as combing the Ladies Heads, &c. &c.

I think it is a great Pity that every charitably disposed Person is not his own Almoner, since, it is a thousand to one, whether that which was intended to help the

Distress, and is not applied to the Service of Liberty, and VICE ! I am sure, to my own Knowledge in several Instances, it has been the Doctor, who has many Affairs of this Nature on his Hands, and to quote his favourite Mr. Pope,

*Now, in such Exigencies, not to need,
Upon my Word, you must be rich indeed,
A noble Superfluity it craves,
Not for yourself, but for your Whores, and
Knaves !*

I remember, twenty Years ago, to hear Doctor *Delany* say from the Pulpit, it was a glorious Thing for a Man to be his own Executor : I dare say, he never preached but what he practised, and, except that eternal Treasure, which he has wisely laid up in Store, where neither Moth nor Rust can corrupt, nor Thieves break through and steal ; whenever he comes to pay his mortal Debt, — which Hour be far away, all he will have left on this Side of a blessed and glorious Immortality, will be a Shower of Orphans, and of Widows Tears, to bedew the consecrated Earth, where his honoured Remains shall rest in Peace, till summoned to partake of that Bliss, prepared by the Almighty before all Worlds, for Souls like His.

As

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As I have frequently observed to my Readers, that I was glad to run away from such a disagreeable Theme as my Misfortunes, I hope for their Pardon, though I am obliged to return to them again, and give them an Account even of so dismal a Place as a Jail.

Our Head-Turnkey happened to have been a Servant to Alderman *Barber*; and, like *Joseph*, I found Favour in the Sight of my Keeper, as he had seen me in better Days.

*For, Certes, I had look'd on better Days,
And had, with holy Bell, been knoll'd to
Church,
And sat at good Men's Feasts, and wip'd
the Eye
Of Drops, which sacred Pity had en-
gender'd.*

This Man took great Compassion on me, and as on every *Friday*, which is Court-day, the Prisoners are all locked up in their respective Apartments, lest, when the Gates are thrown open for the Admission of the Judge and Lawyers, any of them should make their Escape: I was always indulged in the Liberty of hearing the Trials, which, as a Court of Judicature was a Scene I had never before beheld, greatly amused me.

And,

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And, indeed, I quickly perceived Sir *Richard Steel* was not mistaken, when he said, the first, second, and third Excellence of a Lawyer was Tautology.

Yet this was but a transitory Relaxation once in a Week ; the Horror of my Condition return'd with redoubled Violence the Moment I heard the Key turn for my Confinement.

If Mr. *P———n* should alledge, I have been severe on him in my Writings, — let him but consider the Extremity that he drove a worthy Gentleman's Daughter to, nurtured in Ease, and Plenty ; and if he does not acquit me, I am sure the rest of the World will.

Well, we had a Sort of a Chappel belonging to the Jail, where Doctor *Freind*, a Clergyman, Brother to Doctor *Freind*, the Physician, obliged us with Divine Service every Sunday : This Gentleman was himself a Prisoner in the King's Bench, and, after all the Grandeur he had once lived in, was now so low reduced as even to be beholden to such an unfortunate Creature as I for Sixpence ; which, unfortunate as I was, I could not refuse to so fine an Orator, a Gentleman ! and, by all Accounts, only undone by boundless Generosity, and Hospitality.

The

The first Day I heard him preach I was charmed with his Elocution, but the rest of the Congregation, mad, and drunk, bade him hold his Tongue ;——he indeed, like *Orpheus*, played to Wolves, and Bears ; nor were they half so obliging to him, as the Storms were to *Arion* ; neither could he, though uttering dulcet, and harmonious Sounds, make the rude Crowd grow civil with his Song.

This fine Gentleman I often invited to my lonely Mansion ;——he was not a little surprized to hear my mournful Story ;——and, indeed, it somewhat alleviated my Sorrow to find such a Companion :——Poor Gentleman ! Death has released him ; I am sure, I should have done it, had the Almighty given me a Power equal to my Inclination to serve him.

However, I may praise God that I was under him, the happy Instrument of Good to Numbers of my wretched Fellow-creatures, since by one pathetic Memorial I wrote for them, the sorrowful Sighing of the Prisoners reached the Hearts of the Legislative Powers, and obtained an Act of Grace for them.

But, as it was now near *Christmas*, and the Act was not to take Place till the *June* following, I used my utmost Endeavours to procure my own Liberty ; for, oh ! what
anxious

anxious Moments must have passed between that dreadful Interval of Time? On a second Application to Mr. *Cibber*, he used all his Power with the Great for me, and, as he had been used to move their Passions, did it effectually on my Behalf, insomuch that no less than sixteen Dukes contributed a Guinea a-piece towards my Enlargement.

When I read over these Words, *Discharge from your Custody the Body of, &c.* As I was by nine Weeks Confinement, Sickness, and Fasting, rendered quite weak, the joyful Surprise made me faint away several Times, and, indeed, my kind Benefactor had like to have frustrated his own generous Design of preserving me.

However, after all Debts, Extortions, and Dues were paid, I had just thirteen Shillings left, with which Sum I was once more permitted to breathe the open Air——and go where I pleased.

As soon as I got as far as *London Bridge*, I found my Head turn quite giddy, and my Legs fail me, insomuch that I went into a Jeweller's Shop, who perceiving my weak Condition, permitted me to sit down in it; I begged of him to let some of his Servants call a Coach for me, which he civilly complied with; when I was got into it, I was at a Loss where to bid the Coachman drive me; till, at last recollecting that all my

Writings

Writings, All, the little All! which might make my future Fortune were in the Possessions of Mrs. *Trifoli*, the Woman who had cast me into Misery unspeakable, which not to teize my Readers, I have slightly passed over; for what Entertainment can it possibly give to the curious, learned, or polite Reader to hear from me what every Person, who has ever been in a Jail, can relate as well as I.

Well, I was carried to her House, where, as I told her, I did not know where to lodge that Night; she kindly accepted of me for a Bedfellow, but a very bad one I found, for she, as my Spirits were quite fatigued, no sooner found I was fast asleep, but she picked my Pocket.

When I awoke in the Morning, she asked me to give her some Tea, on which taking up my Pocket to give her Money to go for it, I found I had none; when I complained of this Usage, she told me, she was too charitable to permit me to sleep with her, and now this was her Reward; so she insisted on my turning out of her Doors, and truly I knew not where to

———*Inform my unacquainted Feet
Thro' the blind Mazes of a tangled World.*

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So I went dirty, as I came out of the Jail, to Mr. *Cibber* ; for I ought before to have observed, that this Wretch not only secured my Person, but my Cloaths also, infomuch that I had not a Shift to change me, till, out of what Charity was sent me, I bought a second One in the Jail.

However, he received me with as much Regard, and Kindness, as though I had been ever so well drest ; but he charged me not to give him Thanks for any thing he had done to serve me, but to praise God who, as he said, had given me Merit ; “ For, Child, “ said he, were you stupid, insensible, or “ wicked, I should never have had the “ smallest Compassion for you.”

He asked me, what I now intended to do ? I assured him, I did not know ; for that I neither had a Lodging, nor, what was yet worse, a Shilling to get one : “ Well, “ said he, I have a little Money in Store “ for you ; I told your melancholy Story to “ the Duke of *Richmond*, and he gave me “ Five Guineas for you, there they are.”

This was a Lottery Prize to one in my unhappy Situation ; I could not, though prohibited, forbear the warmest Expressions of Gratitude, both to his Grace, and Mr. *Cibber* ; to the Duke I wrote a Letter of Acknowledgment, and provided myself with a Lodging in *Westminster*, and, as it
was

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was on *Christmas* Eve, I obtained my Liberty. On *New-Year's* Day, I published in the *Gazette* the following Lines :

To COLLEY CIBBER, *Esq*;

LOST in a Prison's joyless Gloom,
Chearless, and dreary as the Tomb,
Where on the Bed of Care I lay,
And wept the lonely Hours away :
When ev'ry Hope, and Wish was fled,
But to be number'd with the Dead,
You, like a Messenger of Grace,
Spoke my despairing Soul to Peace ;
Wip'd off the Tear from Sorrow's Eye,
Bid Bars, and Bolts, strong warded, fly ;
Bounty, the Angel-Men revere
Wrought Miracles of Mercy there.
Say, shall those Deeds forgotten die,
Or, lost in cold Oblivion lie ?
May Heav'n no longer guard that Breath
You rescu'd from untimely Death,
Than Gratitude attunes my Lays
In sweetest Notes to hymn your Praise ;
Nor can the Song offend the Ear,
Thus offer'd from a Soul sincere.

Enlarg'd, once more, with Joy I view
The circling Son his Course renew.
May He, whose Wisdom guides the Spheres,
Proportion Blessings to thy Years ;

To

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To Thee, may rosy-bosom'd Spring,
Pleasure, and Health, and Plenty bring,
Till Time, with gentle Steps, convey
Thy Soul to Realms of endless Day,
Where Cherubims for Thee, with Care,
Unenvy'd deathless Wreaths prepare.
Those modest Virtues You conceal,
Shall Heav'n-born Charity reveal;
And mortal Goodness, to improve,
Unite You can immortal Love.

Oh, let your Gaiety excuse,
My serious melancholy Muse!
This World appears a Dream to me,
Afflictions teach Philosophy;
And thus, alone, a Christian Heart,
It's grateful Raptures can impart.

My dear old Friend was pleased with my Sense of his Goodness to me; only he told me, my Lines were more proper to be addressed to an Archbishop than to him, who had nothing to boast of more than a little common Humanity.

Well, being now free,—— and with five Guineas in my Pocket, in flowing Circumstances, I began to consider, in what Manner I should improve them; so I wrote to his Grace of *M——b*, who, like Lord *Kingborough*, knows not how to give one Guinea, by way of Relief, he immediately
sent

sent me Ten, sealed up in a very genteel Letter, with his best Wishes, and Compliments to me; who was now so rich as I?

But, as *Shakespeare* observes,

*There is a Tide in the Affairs of Men,
Which, taken at the Height, is prosperous,
But, slighted, the Residue of their Lives
Is bound in Shallows and in Misery.*

So, I just then heard a Clergyman was in *England*, who was a near, and intimate Friend of my Fathers; him I addressed, and was ordered to go to Mr. *Richardson*, a Printer, in *Salisbury Court*, for an Answer to my Letter.

As I had never formed any great Idea of a * Printer, by those I had seen in *Ireland*, I was very negligent of my Dress, any more than making myself clean; but was extremely surprized, when I was directed to a House of a very grand outward Appearance, and had it been a Palace, the beneficent Master deserved it.

I met a very civil Reception from him; and he not only made me breakfast, but also dine with him, and his agreeable Wife

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* *Mem.* Not our present Set of Printers, who are many of them Gentlemen, and Persons in good Circumstances, particularly my own.

and Children. After Dinner, he called me into his Study, and shewed me an Order he had received to pay me twelve Guineas, which he immediately took out of his Escrutore, and put into my Hand ; but when I went to tell them over, I found I had fourteen, and supposing the Gentleman had made a Mistake, I was for returning two of them ; but he, with a Sweetness, and Modesty almost peculiar to himself, said, he hoped I would not take it ill, that he had presumed to add a Trifle to the Bounty of my Friend.

I really was confounded, till, recollecting that I had read *Pamela*, and been told it was written by one Mr. *Richardson*, I asked him, whether he was not the Author of it ? He said, he was the Editor : I told him, my Surprise was now over, as I found he had only given to the incomparable *Pamela* the Virtues of his own worthy Heart.

When he reads these Lines, as read them, I am certain he will, even for the Writer's Sake, let him reflect, that, at least, his Bread was not scattered on the Water ; but that though I have no other Way of shewing my Gratitude for his boundless and repeated Acts of Humanity to me, and my Children, but Words, mere Words ; yet, if every Word of mine could charm down Blessings on him,

Then

*Then never shou'd Misfortune cross his
Foot ;
But Peace shou'd be within his Walls, and
Plenty,
Health, and Happiness his constant At-
tendants.*

And now, that I might, if possible, avoid the Misery of extreme Want, I resolv'd to turn my Stock into Trade ; and, after long Consideration, thought nothing would suit my Inclination so well as a Pamphlet-Shop, nor no Place was so proper for my Purpose as *St. James's-street*, where I should be in the Center of my noble Benefactors ; to this End, I walk'd through it, and finding one to be let, which answer'd my Purpose, I directly agreed to give the Landlord twenty-one Pounds a Year, for a Shop, Parlour, and Kitchen ; but the Landlord insist'd upon my paying a Quarter's Rent before-hand, which, though a little hard upon me, as I not only had the Shop to stock, but Furniture of all Kinds to buy, I complied with.

So, Reader, here was a new Scene, and I, for the first of my Family, took my Place behind a Counter.

Having met with a very great Bargain of Prints, which were sold under Distress, and having some Knowledge in that Way, I re-

solved also to deal in them ; so, having decorated out my Windows with them to the best Advantage, early on *Monday* Morning I entered on my new Employ.

The first Person who entered was Lord, *Prest—n*, dress'd *à la mode de Paris*, with long sloped double Ruffles, such as the Ladies wear ; he took down the Print of *Shakespear's* Monument, and, though it was marked Price Eighteen-pence, he bade me a Groat for it, which, as it had cost me a Shilling, I could, by no Means, take ; so he went away very much displeased, and truly, I began to be out of Concert with my Occupation.

As my dear Mr. *Cibber* had made me a present of fifty of his last Answer to Mr. *Pope*, I sat down to read it, and found it so full of Spirit, and Humour, that just as it had thrown me into a hearty Fit of Laughter, a Clergyman entered, who asked me, what I had got new ? I told him my *present Situation* : He looked earnestly on me, and said, he was very sure of that ;

“ But, Madam, said he, all are not born
“ to be happy in this World, however
“ they may merit it, which plainly demon-
“ strates a future State, where Rewards
“ and Punishments will be impartial-
“ ly distributed ; but why should I tell
“ this

“ this to Mrs. *Pilkington*, who may better
“ instruct her Teacher ?”

I begged of the Gentleman to inform me, where I had had the Honour of seeing him ? He told me, he was Son to Colonel *Stuart*, who lived next Door to my Father, before I was married, and when he himself was in the College : I then recollected, that he used every Day to send me some poetical Praise, and as I never before had an Opportunity of thanking him for his elegant Compliments, I took it now.

As he was desirous of giving me Handsel, as they call it, I recommended Mr. *Cibber's* Letter to him, as a Cure for the Spleen, a Distemper most studious, and learned Persons are apt to fall into ; he took the Ghost's Word for the Excellence of the Performance, and gave me a Guinea ; I was going to give him Change, but he would not accept of it ; so, promising to be a constant Customer for whatever I sold, and wishing me all Success, he departed. *Mem.* the Clergyman infinitely more generous than the Peer.

As my Obligations to Mr. *Cibber* were ever present to my Mind, I wrote to him the following kind of Paraphrase on an Ode of *Horace* :

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To Mr. CIBBER.

Donarem pateras.

Hor,

DID Fortune wait upon my Hand,
Cou'd I her various Gifts command,
Her noblest Offering wou'd I give
To Him, whose Bounty bade me live,
A golden Goblet, richly chas'd,
Close by a mantling Vine embrac'd,
Whose Fruitage round the Brim should
shine,
And seem to yield the sparkling Wine,
Or radiant Gems, of Value rare,
Shou'd speak my Gratitude sincere,
For thy far nobler Gift to me,
Inestimable LIBERTY !

Tho' Poets boast a fair Estate,
They seldom deal in Gems, or Plate ;
For yet in all *Parnassius* Mold,
There ne'er appear'd one Vein of Gold,
We toil, and labour all our Days
For a few Sprigs of barren Bays ;
They, Thunder-proof, it's Rage defy,
Yet, touch'd by Envy, blasted die.

Yet Verse can consecrate a Name,
And worthy Deeds consign to Fame ;

Oh !

Oh ! cou'd I raise a Song sublime,
 Triumphant over Fate and Time,
 Thy Virtue in the Lays divine
 Should with immortal Lustre shine :
 Let others place phantastic Joys
 In orient Trinkets, splendid Toys !
 While your exalted Soul refin'd,
 Like Heav'n, accepts the GRATEFUL
 MIND.

I sent these Lines to my dear Gentleman,
 who presently came to me, as I was once
 more in his Neighbourhood, — and in his
 chearful Way, said, “ Faith, Child, you
 “ have praised me so, that, I think, it is
 “ the least I can do to make you eat for a
 “ Fortnight ;” — so he gave me three
 Guineas.

As my Mind was now a little at Peace,
 I began to think of my dear Children, whom
 nothing but my Incapacity of doing them
 Service, and a Supposition that their Father
 took proper Care of them could ever divert
 my Thoughts from, even a Moment ; so strong
 is maternal Love, at least, if every Mother
 loves like me : For, really, and I hope it is
 a pardonable Frailty, my very Life is trea-
 sured in him, whom I may properly stile
 my only Child, and were he to die, I should
 not long survive him.

I know not of what impenetrable Stuff his Father's Heart was made of, that could let such a Son, not only want the Advantages of Education, which had it not been in his Power to pay for, it was in his own Power to bestow on him, so far as instructing him in the Knowledge of *Latin*, and *Greek*, which *Cato* would not permit his Son to be indebted to a Slave for ; — and yet *Cato* was, at least, as good, and a much greater Man than the Parson ; surely this he might have done : — No, on the contrary, he chose to expose him, at Nine Years of Age, to every Calamity in Life ; and that he did not turn Thief, or Pickpocket, was due to God's restraining Grace, and providential Care of him.

And here I must, in Vindication of my Child, declare, he never was undutiful, or disrespectful to me, as his Father has falsely, and cruelly reported ; he is, like all Persons of his Age, so full of Mirth, and overflowing Spirits, that, I am certain, the Dulness his Father brings, as an Excuse for taking him from School, never was his Fault ;

For he is —

All my Mirth, my Exercise, my Matter,
He

*He makes my July's Days short as December,
And, with his varying Playfulness, kills
in me
Thoughts which would thicken my Blood.*

Though, I am sure, only that he has too much Respect for his Father, to throw any Reflection on him ; yet he might properly say,

*He let me feed with his Hinds, debar'd me
of a Place in his Love, and, as much as was
in him, mined my Gentility by base Education.*

And I may say, with Truth, the Boy is gentle, though

*Never school'd, learn'd ; full of noble Device,
And of all Sorts enchantingly be lov'd.*

Shakespear, As you like it.

But to return. I wrote to Ireland to my eldest Son, who, either through Fear of his Father's Anger, or an ill-natured Spirit derived from him, did not think me worth an Answer ; however, he shewed the Letter to his Sister, who, in her low Stile, sent me an affectionate

affectionate Letter. Before it reached me, I heard Mr. *Ar—e* was come to *London*, and having been told my Child was bound Apprentice to him, I did not doubt but I should find him with him, so I went to wait on him; he received me very politely, and told me, my Son had left him, and was gone to *Scotland*: When I demanded, how they came to part? He said, he had pawned some of his Music Books, and that he had complained to his Father of him, who asked what they might be worth? It is to be presumed that they were valued to the utmost they cost; upon which Mr. *P——n*, ever tender, said he was glad to hear that the Theft, as he termed it, amounted to Death, entreating Mr. *Ar—e* to prosecute the Child, for such he then was, and declaring that nothing in the World would give him greater Satisfaction than to hear that the Dog was hang'd.

Mr. *Ar—e* said, Mr. *P——n*'s Inhumanity quite shocked him, — so he corrected the Boy very severely, upon which he ran away from him; that he had since received a Letter from him, which he shewed to me, and from thence I got a Direction where to write to him. I was, as may be supposed, infinitely disturbed at this Account of my Son; I wrote to him that very Night, and informed him of what
Mr.

Mr. *Ar—e* had said ; I begged of him to come to me, and that as his Master had highly commended his musical Talents ; I hoped, by Mr. *Cibber's* Interest, to get him engaged at one of the Theatres.

About ten Days after, having just paid my Rent, and bought some Shop Goods, on which I had laid out every Penny I was worth ; — as I had stuck up on my Shop Window, *Letters written here on any Subject, except the Law, Price Twelve-pence ; Petitions also drawn at the same Rate. Mem. Ready Money, no Trust.*

A Man came in, very badly drest, with a greasy Leather Apron before him ; he looked over some Prints, when the Postman brought me a large Pacquet, marked *Edinburgh* ; as I had no Money, I was in terrible Confusion, especially as the Fellow cried, “ Come, Mistress, don’t keep me “ waiting ;” I said, I must send out for Change : Oh, said he, I never go without it ; where’s your Piece ? Upon this, the Leather-apron’d Gentleman, for such he was, drew out a Handful of Gold, and throwing down a Guinea, said, “ There, “ take your Money ;” and what was yet more surprizing, he insisted on my taking the Change, for he determined, he said, to have me his Debtor,

Upon

Upon this I began to have a very different Opinion of my new Customer than what his first Appearance gave me, and therefore civilly entreated his Permission to peruse my Letter, to which he agreeing, I had not read above ten Lines when I burst into Tears, so the Gentleman insisted on my laying it aside while he stayed, telling me, I must so far oblige him as to write a Love Letter for him.

Upon this I invited him into the Parlour, and told him, he must make me his Confidant: He said, he had never mentioned Love to the Lady; that, as to her Person, she was very agreeable, but that her Mind far surpassed it: So, having my Instructions, I quickly finished my Task greatly to his Satisfaction, insomuch that he protested I must give him Leave to send for a Flask of *Champaigne* to raise my Spirits, which, indeed, were greatly oppressed.

By the time he had drank a Glass, or two, he began to talk of *Homer*, *Horace*, *Milton*, and all the Poets; sung an *Italian* Song, and soon convinced me, that Dress was put on merely to disguise a fine Gentleman, which it was no way in his Power to do; I told him so, and asked him, why he walked in Masquerade?

He smiled at my Question, but assured me, he was neither better or worse than a House-

a House-Painter, and that his Name was Tom Brush.

This put me in Mind of an Adventure I once had in *Ireland*, when one of the finest Gentlemen in it came to visit me in a Grazier's Coat, and told me his Name was Tom Long, the Carrier, though he happened to be an *English* Baronet, with a large Estate, and a great Employment.

But I have been a Lady of Adventure, and almost every Day of my Life produces some new one: I am sure, I ought to thank my loving Husband for the Opportunity he has afforded me of seeing the World from the Palace to the Prison; for had he but permitted me to be what Nature certainly intended me for, a harmless household Dove, in all human Probability I should have rested contented with my humble Situation, and, instead of using a Pen, been employed with a Needle, to work for the little ones we might, by this time, have had.

Now, after all my strange Vicissitudes of good, and evil Fortune, I sincerely declare, that were I to have my Wish, though I should not now in the Decline of Life be able to struggle through Misfortunes, as in it's first sprightly Career; yet as by the Bounty, Compassion, and Kindness of all my noble, and honoured Benefactors, I have
the

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the unspeakable Happiness of being set above
the low Distresses of Life.

*Now pleas'd Remembrance builds Delight
on Woe.*

Pope's Homer.

I think I am glad that there has been such
strong Proof made of my Constancy, with-
out which I had scarce known how duly to
praise that eternal Goodness, who evermore
gave me Strength adequate to the severe
Afflictions he was pleased to try me with.
Be then all Praise to him, who

*From seeming Evil, still educes good,
And better still from thence, and better
still
To infinite Perfection.*

Well, when Mr. Brush departed, I read
my dear Child's Letter, which was as fol-
lows :

Edinburgh, Sept. 16. 1744.

My dear, dear MOTHER,

NO Tongue can express the Joy which
the Receipt of your kind Letter in-
spired me with to find a long lost Treasure!
for

for I was so positively assured you were dead that I can hardly believe my Eyes, when I see your dear and well-known Hand, and read your beloved Name, which I have kissed a thousand times, if it be Delusion, may I never be undeceived!

You desire me to give you a particular Account of whatever has befallen me since I had the Misfortune of losing you my dearest, and only Friend, for I, with all Duty and Gratitude, remember your fond Affection to me; it is to You I am indebted that I can either read or write, or know any Part of my Duty either to God or Man; for I do assure you my Father neither instructed me himself, nor though Mr. *Baldrick* whom my Grandfather put me to School to, when the good old Man was dead, would have taught me for nothing, wou'd he permit me to go to School, because, one Day a Boy threw a Stone at me, and I throwing another at him, happened to break a Pane of Glass in an Ale-house Window, for which the People followed me Home, and made my Father pay a Groat for it.

Upon this I received a most inhuman Correction from him, which was repeated every Morning and Night for six Days together; he stripped off all my Cloaths, though in the Depth of Winter, and locked them

them up, leaving me without any Covering but my Shirt in the dark back Kitchen, which, as you may remember, was in the Winter overflowed with Water, charging the Servants not to give me a Morsel of Food; and that I am alive is due to God's Providence, who, I hope, preserved me to be a Comfort to you.

However the Servants, though they had but a Groat a Day allowed them to live upon, used to give me Share of their Bread and Butter-milk, and when my Father was abroad, would permit me to warm my Body at the Kitchen Fire; nay, and as my Father said, it was too much Indulgence for me to sleep with his Footman; the poor Fellow used to let me lie down in the Day, where I spent most of my Time, and was neither allowed Pen, Ink, or Book to amuse me. I will in some time give you a full History, but, at present, shall confine myself to Mr. *Arme's* Affair: I lived with him some time before I was bound Apprentice, in which I was used very well, but as soon as that was done the Scene was changed; Mrs. *Arme*, who was prodigiously fond of Gin, used to take so much of it that she seldom knew what she did, and would often perswade her Husband to believe well or ill of me, just as she was drunk or sober; it was in one of these

these Fits she was when *Tommy Lo-e* landed, who is really a worthless conceited Fellow, and because he thought I did not sufficiently admire his fine Singing, used, by way of Fun, to set Mrs. *Ar-e* on to abuse me, and Mr. *Ar-e*, who is really a good-natured Man: I was discharged from fetching half * Quarterns to my Mistress, and there being an old Box in the Garret, in which Mr. *Ar-e* kept some Music Books, she went up to examine it, and said there was some of them stolen; he, who did not know what Number of Books was in it, said, there was none gone; upon which, without the least Ceremony, she struck him in the Face, swearing by the great G—d if he did not correct me she would do it herself; I, who was not far off, and heard this Discourse, made the best of my way out of the House, which Mrs. *Ar-e* taking as a Proof of Guilt, and a villainous Maid she had joining with her, she searched the House, and swore she had lost many things, as Brass Candlesticks, Bottles, &c. all this poor Mr. *Ar-e* was obliged to agree to for Quietness sake. When I had staid a Day away, I wrote to him, telling him, I was surprized at his Suspensions of me, and that I was willing to return; he came directly with the Messenger, and brought me Home; I stayed there

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till

* Half Naggins of Geneva.

till Night, when Mr. *Lo—e* coming in, and hearing I was there, called for his Horse-whip, and Mr. *Ar—e*, his Wife and *Lo—e* were beating me for three Hours to make me confess what I had done with the Books, swearing they would cut me to Death, if I did not own: I was was forced one time to say that I sold them; another, that I gave them away to get a little Respite; so, when they had made me confess to what they pleased, I was put to Bed, and locked in, in order to be sent to *Newgate* next Day. I staid all Night, never slept, and all the next Day did not eat a Morsel. In the Evening they were rehearsing *Comus*, when I shot back the Lock of my Prison, and finding the other Door open I took off my Shoes, and crept down Stairs, got to the Street, and run five Streets length in my Stockings: What Advantage the Maid might make of finding the Door open, and me gone I know not, as Mrs. *Ar—e* said she had lost some of her Jewels, things the poor Woman never had in her Life; and so far I was from a Thought of taking any thing of theirs, that I did not take my Hat, a Shirt, or any thing else with me. Now all the Reason I can ever devise for her using me so, was, I believe, because I once saw her and *L—e* toying on the Bed together. So now, my

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 211

my Dear, as I fear I have taken up too much of your Time already. I shall conclude, with assuring you

I am,

With the greatest Tendernefs,

Respect, and Duty,

Your affectionate Son,

J. PILKINGTON.

This Account of my poor Child's Sufferings threw me into what they call *An Histeric Cholic*, under which I languished many Days, but my Hour was not yet come, nor had my Sorrows reached their Summit. But of that in due Place.

But to return to my Seat behind the Counter, where I was tollerably content with my Situation, except for the Concern I felt for my Children, from whom I could seldom disengage my Thoughts, although the sad Remembrance grieves my Soul. I must proceed: I went to indulge a pleasing Fit of Melancholy into *Westminster Abbey*,

P 2

Where

*Where breathing Paint, and speakin
Marbles shew
What Worthies form the hallow'd Mold
below.*

I wandered through the Cloysters, reading the Inscriptions till it grew duskish. I hastened to the great Gate, but was infinitely shocked to find I was locked into the solitary Mansions of the Dead ; I called aloud to no Purpose, except to fright myself with my own Voice reverberated through

*Long sounding Isles, and intermingled
Graves.*

'Tis scarce in the Power of Imagination to paint the Horror which possessed me, especially, as by the Glimpses of the Moon, the Statues which had before been Subjects of Amusement to me, now looked dreadful, when each Mole-hill Ant swelled to a huge *Olympus* ; I knew not what to do, but, if possible, take Sanctuary at the Altar.

I went up to the Iron Wicket, which opens into that Part of the Abbey where Divine Service is performed, and to my unspeakable Happiness, pulled it open : I thought to sit down in one of the Pews till
Morning,

Morning, till, recollecting the Church was full of Rats, my Terrors were again renewed, and I had an Inclination to go into the Isles, yet, how strong a Passion is Fear? the very Look of them terrified me; till, at length, gathering Courage even from Despair, I went to the Communion Table, took off from thence a Carpet which covered it, and thinking I could nowhere be so secure from those Vermin as in the Pulpit, I, with great Difficulty, dragged it up, where finding also a Velvet Cushion, I seated myself, and laid the Cushion under my Head, wrapping even my Face up with the Carpet.

I endeavoured all in my Power, by the Force of Reason and Religion, to conquer the Terrors which seized me; I reflected that God was every where, and able to defend me, that he was not slow to hear, nor impotent to save, and also that the Church was peculiarly under his Care, as consecrated to Acts of Holiness, and both relying on his Providence, and committing myself to his Protection, I found my Mind as tranquil and composed, as if I had been at Home in my Bed; and fell into a deep Sleep: And here, though I may be thought whimsical or superstitious for it, I cannot avoid relating my Dream, produced, no Doubt, by the same Set of Ideas which had possessed my waking

Thoughts, and still held their Place in Sleep.

I imagined myself to be exactly where I was, and that suddenly the Graves gave up their mighty dead, who walked in martial Array before me ; I thought, by some secret intuitive Knowledge, I became acquainted not only with their Names, but also with their Aspects. Many crowned Heads, and sceptered Hands stalked by me in venerable Majesty ; *Henry V.* clad in Armour, drew in a particular Manner my Attention, inso-much that I could not forbear blessing him ; I thought he smiled, and, with a placid Air, returned my Salutation, and said, “ I should
“ have been Great, if when I had con-
“ quered *France*, I had not married the
“ perfidious Daughter of it, who at the
“ Age of Thirty-four poisoned me.”

This Crime of hers has been truly visited on all our unhappy Race, who are now quite extinct.

I said, Thanks, Gracious Monarch. He disappeared, and two Persons, struggling for a Diadem, next approached. Death, Desolation, and Ruin were spread around them, till, at length, a surly looking Fellow destroyed them both, and all their Friends.

I mourned at this sad Scene, when, lo ! a Hero appeared, who held in one Hand red Roses and white, so blended that they
looked

looked lovely to the Eye; he seemed once or twice to smell to them, when instantly the Flowers faded and died, while, in their Place, appeared a large Bag of Money.

Next came a squat, square-faced King, who held in his Right-hand four bloody Heads, one of whom I thought I knew to be that of *Anna Bullen*, and the other that of the Marquis of *Surrey*.

A sweetly blooming Youth, whose Portrait was just at my Back in the Pulpit, appeared and vanished like my Dream, out of which I startled by the Chimes, finding the Bell tolled Four, and knowing the Early Service did not begin till Six, I once more endeavoured to compose myself to Rest.

I must reassume my Dream just where it broke off, as it really occurred to me. A lovely Lady made her Entrance, holding *Plato* in one Hand, and the Bible in the other; two Men, by Force, put a Crown on her Head, at which she seemed terrified, when immediately came a Woman with a Countenance like *Magæra*, attended by a Train of Fellows, with Cords, Axes, and Hatchets, Wheels, and other Implements of Death, and Torture, waited on again by Persons, who, by their holy Vestments, I hoped would be, at least humane; but, alas! instead of comforting the lovely Lady, they forced the above-said

Fury, who seemed for once inclined to pity her, to permit those savage and inhuman Butchers to cut off the loveliest, the most learned Head that ever, from the prime Creation, adorned a Woman.

But, to the unspeakable Happiness of *Great-Britain*, this detestable Wretch told me, as I thought, that *Philip* of *Spain* poisoned her, in Hope of marrying her Sister *Elizabeth*, then a Prisoner in the Tower.

I was tired with these shadowy crowned Heads passing by me, like those in *Macbeth*, and wished to see the sweetly inspired, Laurel-wreathed Poets advance, my Wish was immediately gratified, and a merry old Fellow appeared, who was, as it were in Jest, lashing a whole Swarm of Friars:

*Piec'd, patch'd, and pye-bal'd, Linsey-
woolsey Brothers,
Bare-headed, sleeveless some, and shirtless
others.*

Pope.

And though the Blows were dealt pretty smart, they affected to smile at them.

Next appeared a Queen, to whom a Gentleman, with a sweet but melancholy Countenance, humbly presented a Volume of inimitable Poetry, as he was the Prince of
Poets

Poets in his Time : His *Gloriana* received it graciously, and putting her Hand in her Pocket gave him a large Bag ; I supposed it had been filled with Gold, but the Poet opening it, found nothing in it, but Grains, such as they feed the Hogs with, of which he put a large Handful into his Mouth, and instantly dropped down.

The Concern I felt for him awaked me ; the Bell tolled for Morning Prayer, and the Sexton missing the Carpet, and supposing the Church had been robbed, was almost beside himself, till I called to him, and bade him not be frightened, there was nothing gone ; the Man stared at me, I begged him to come and help me down, for I found myself so weak I could scarce move.

I then told him by what odd Accident I came there : He seemed amazed that I outlived it, and swore heartily he would not have been in my Place for all the World. I begged of him to get somebody to call me a Chair ; he went himself for one, and with great Good-nature, brought from his own House a small Phial, with some Cherry-brandy in it, and a Tea-cup in his Pocket ; I am sure I wanted a Cordial, and therefore took a little of it, though not without obliging him to accept of Payment for it.

When I returned Home, my Servant, who had sat up for me all Night, was amazed to see
me

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me so pale and dirty, for the old Carpet had sufficiently soiled my Apparel ; but, lest she should conceive a bad Opinion of me, I told her where I had been, and went to Bed ; I slept for two Hours, and awoke extremely ill, notwithstanding which I cleansed myself, and went into my Shop.

A young Gentleman, but very gravely drest, was my first Customer ; he asked me the Price of an old Print in the Window, and seemed surprized at my asking Half a Crown for it, assuring me it was not worth a Groat ; I said, I was sure he was too good a Judge not to know the Value of any Print taken out of *Montfaucon's* Antiquities : He said, he wondered why, since I knew the Value of the Author, I should be so tasteless as to cut one of them out of the Work, which in many Places served to illustrate it, particularly in the Medals ; I assured him I had not done it, but had bought them amongst a Number of others. The Gentleman, perceiving I spoke very faintly, said, he believed I was not well ; I assured him I was so ill, it was with infinite Difficulty I spoke at all ; he demanded of me, who was my Physician ? I said, I had none since my dear Father died, who was one of the Faculty : Then, Madam, said he, allow me to have that Honour, so feeling my Pulse, he ordered me to be bled, which

which greatly relieved my poor Head, which with the Agitation of Spirit I had suffered over Night, ached ready to split. As this Gentleman gave me his Attendance as long as I had the least Complaint, I should, I think, be highly ungrateful not to acknowledge my Obligation to Doctor *Lawson*.

And indeed, I must here say, I never met with more learned, more generous, or more humane Gentlemen than Physicians; yet as no general Rule is without an Exception, Doctor *W—lk—r* refused me a Subscription, although every other Physician had, on my dear Father's Account, relieved his unhappy Family; but he alledged it would disoblige Mr. *P——n*, I know not but it might; yet how he came to fear him more than the rest of the World did, that I know not, but any Excuse will serve a Man to save five Shillings; perhaps he could not spare them, as it is more than probable, were he fee'd according to his Skill, he might not be worth a single *Marvedi*; and for many Reasons, he ought not to be severe on any Woman's Character, let him amend the Females of his own Family first, a Task, I fear he will never be able to perform.

I might also give the same Advice to Doctor *O—ns*, whose two Sisters took a solitary Walk over *Essex-Bridge* every Evening, perhaps to say their Prayers.

But

But to return to *Albion*. I had one Evening been invited abroad, and at my Return, my Servant told me there had been two very fine Gentlemen to visit me, who would not leave their Names, but said they would come the next Morning. Accordingly they did; one of whom I knew to be Lieutenant *Southwel*, since dead, and the other the L—d V——t D——le; Mr. *Southwel*, who had been many Years acquainted with me, seemed rejoiced to see me, but my Lord looked on me with the utmost Contempt, nay, with such an Air, as I had never before met with from any Gentleman, and cried, “Prithee, come away, I thought you were to take me to a Girl of Sixteen;” though, *mem.* he was at that time married to his present Lady, who is, by all Accounts, a very great Beauty: I assured his Lordship I had been once Sixteen, but as it happened sixteen Years had rolled over since that blooming Season, and that, to my great Mortification, I could not arrest old Father *Time*: Mr. *Southwel* very politely said, I should be always young; but my Lord urging his Departure, he whispered me, that he would come and pass the Evening with me.

He kept his Word, and gave me a long Detail of the Calamities he had suffered on Board a Man of War, where, because some
saucy

saucy Fellow called him a *Bastard*, and he, in Return, broke his Head ; the Captain confined him sixteen Weeks to his Cabbin, but learning that he was very ill he permitted him to come upon Deck ; he was supported by two Men, weak, cold, and trembling, as he assured me, and ready to faint, so that he was obliged to sit down ; upon which the Captain demanded how he dare to sit down in his Presence, or to wear his Hat ? so he first knocked it off, and then threw it into the Sea.

These Indignities, said he, so highly provoked me, that I retired to my Cabbin, resolved, if ever I set my Foot on Shore, to call the Captain to an Account for them. Accordingly, as soon as we were on *English* Ground, I challenged him, for which Offence I was mulcted eighteen Months Pay ; so here is the History of poor *Dick* for you.

I was sensibly touched with his Narration, and could not help reflecting how terrible it must be to Gentlemen of Family, and Education, to bear with Insults from Wretches so far beneath them, as those marine Commanders frequently are, who are perhaps advanced for being abject, and no sooner are they advanced but they become insolent Tyrants.

And indeed, I believe this is eternally the Case ; for it is a constant Remark, that the
worst

worst Masters and Mistresses, are those who have been Servants themselves ; they know what Frauds they have committed, when in the like Situation, and consequently pry into such low Affairs, as Persons of genteel Birth, and generous Education, could never think of, and even if they were informed of them, would chuse to overlook.

Mr. *Southwel* then told me, Lord *D——le* had abused me all Day, though for what Cause I know not ; but, with blunt *Ben*, in *Love for Love*, I merrily told my Sea Officer, that as for my Lord's Love or Liking, I valued it not of a Rope's End, and that, mayhap, I liked him as little as he did me.

I almost forced him to drink a Pint of Wine with me, and would have also forced Half a Guinea on him, but his Spirit would not admit of that.

I was so highly provoked at Lord *D——le's* Insolence, and Pride, so little becoming the Character of a Nobleman, that I could not forbear writing some Lines on so proper a Subject for Satire, which Mr. *Southwel* had snatched from me, and directly carried to his Lordship.

I went next Morning to wait on Admiral *Anson*, with a Petition from the Sister of his Valet de Chambre, who happened to be the first Man shot in his first Sea Engagement,

ment, to whom, beside a Part of the Prize then taken, there was seven Years Wages due. I was shewn into the Back Parlour of a small House in *Hanover-Square*, it was well adorned with Books in Glass Cases, even from the Cieling to the Floor; and on this Occasion, as I had a thousand Pounds worth of Jewels left with me by Mr. *Fisher*, whose Father kept a Shop in *Castle-street, Dublin*, to dispose off for him; knowing how much Dress commands Respect, I put a Pair of Diamond Ear-rings into my Ears, tied on a Diamond Solitaire, and as for Lace, and every other Appurtenance to suit those Ornaments I had them of my own.

My glittering Appearance, and being in a Chair soon brought the Admiral down in a rich Undress, as he supposed by the Account delivered of me, I must be a Woman of Quality; my Eyes were fast engaged to the Books when he entered; he begged my Pardon for his *Dishabille*: I turned, and said, I was glad for once to see Learning and Valour so happily united.

But no sooner did he find that I had only a Petition to deliver, but his Countenance changed to the severe, and he told me he believed People thought he had brought Home the Wealth of the *Indies*, whereas he had not a single Shilling to command no more than the meanest Sailor aboard, the
Money

Money being all, as he said, paid into the Treasury, from whence no Man, without the utmost Difficulty, could extract one single Farthing of it, and having the Word of so great a Man, I really believed it. A sad Discouragement to all Sailors to venture their Lives, when even their very Admirals are not rewarded!

However, as I told the Admiral the Woman was actually starving, he gave me a Guinea for her.

When I returned Home, I found in my Shop Lord *D——le*, Mr. *Skeffington*, since dead, and another Gentleman waiting for me; Lord *D——le* asked what he had done to provoke me to write with so much Bitterness against him? Nay, my Lord, what had I done to disoblige you, or occasion your bestowing on me such gross Abuse as Mr. *Southwel* assured me you did? My Lord said, upon his Honour, it was false, and, taking me by the Hand, assured me he would be a Friend to me, provided I gave him no more of my Pen; but as, from that Hour to this, he never did me any kind of Service, I think the Obligation void on my Side, and therefore present my Readers with the following Sketch of his inimitable Character.

To the Right Honourable the L—d V——nt
D——LE.

SATYRIC Muse! let me prevail
On thee to picture D——le :
Fierce, as the surly northern Gale,
Is proud, contemptuous D——le ;
What makes the Artist rot in Jail ?
Trusting the base-born D——le ;
The Rose-check'd Nymph turns wan, and
pale,
Touch'd by infectious D——le ;
Light Gossamer would turn the Scale,
Weigh'd 'gainst the Wit of D——le ;
Nay, were thy Virtues put to Sale,
A Mite o'er-rates them, D——le :
Honour and Equity shall fail,
E'er practis'd once by D——le ;
For Hell may *Charon* hoist his Sail
O'er *Styx*, to waft curst D——le :
In short, my Subject now grows stale,
I'm tir'd with Rhymes to D——le ;
So were each Fault and Vice combin'd,
That e'er debas'd the human Mind ;
To sum up all, the black Detail,
I'd name the Scoundrel D——le.

And now, my L—d, as I believe I am
the first Poet who ever celebrated the illu-
strious Name of *St. L—dg—r*, which
Name by your supposed noble, and right-

well remembered Father's Account, you are as much entituled to, as I am to that of *Plantagenet*, I hope you will, according to your true Nobility, give me a handsome Reward for this extraordinary Panegyric!

And here I cannot avoid relating, I believe, the true Cause of his L—d—p's Averſion from me, was this: A little Time after I was ſeparated from my Husband, as it was quite the Mode to attack me, he employed one of his infernal Agents to inform me, he ſhould be glad to drink a Diſh of Tea with me; I told the Wretch, I did not know his L—d—p, and therefore hoped he would excuſe me.

But the *Harridan*, being reſolved not to loſe her Reward, told my L—d I would meet him ſomewhere, indeed I do not know the Place, and introduced to him a great, luſty, maſculine Woman, dreſſed in a Caliminco Cap and Cloak, and a long Riding-hood. I believe his L—d—p wondered that ſuch a Creature had made any Noiſe in the World, ſo telling her, he was ſorry he had given her the Trouble of coming there, he gave her a Guinea, and haſtily departed.

A few Nights after this, *W—rſd—le* had *The Cure for a Scold*, altered from *Shakeſpear's Taming of the Shrew*, into a Ballad Opera, by Mr. *P——n*, played for his own

own Benefit; I wrote a flaming Prologue to it, in Honour of my fair Countrywomen, and *W—rsd—le* insisted on my going to see it, assuring me, he would have a Lettice secured entirely for me, or any Friends I should please to bring, and would himself take care of placing me, and also guard me safe out, for really I was very much afraid of receiving some Insult.

On these Promises, I ventured to go; but, lo you! the Lettice was full, but that was no Matter, the Ladies, though my intimate Friends, quickly decamped, and Mrs. *Dub—g*, the Fidler's Wife, declared she had like to faint at the Sight of the *odious Creature!* the Reverend Mr. *Gr—n* also took to his Heels, so I had indeed the whole Lettice, for me and my Company, which were two young Misses, Daughters to my Landlady.

My *Gorgon* Face, instead of turning my Enemies into Stone, clapped Wings to their Feet, and made them fly down Stairs, like so many feathered *Mercuries*, Parson and all, though he was bulky, and tipsy, and dull, and so forth; though, indeed, those Qualities might make him descend with the greater Velocity, and give him a natural Alacrity in sinking.

However, by their precipitant Flight, I got the front Row.

When the Play began, I forgot to keep up my Fan, and two Gentlemen of Distinction in the Pit, bowed to me; presently after the Orange Girl came up, and said a Gentleman desired I would accept of half a Dozen Oranges; I asked who it was? and she shewed me a Person dressed in Scarlet, trimmed with Black; as I did not know him, I told her it was a Mistake, and a young Girl, who followed her in, said, that was L—d D——le, and that the Compliment was intended for her; but the Orange Girl, calling her very familiarly by her Name, which was *Nancy Raymond*, swore to the contrary; for, said she, you know how you us'd my L—d. They talked to one another in the vulgar Tongue, being exceedingly well known to each other, having both followed the same Occupation of Orange, and Oyster Selling, and both came up Stairs into the World.

To compose the Animosity, I bought some Fruit, and though I really paid for it, I doubt not but his L—d—p did also.

When the Play was over, to which I most heartily repented that I went, *W—r/d—le* came to put me into a Chair, said he would sup with me, and kept his Word.

I related to him the Play-house Adventure, and asked him, what kind of a Man L—d D——le was? He told me, he
was

was both a very loose, and a very ungenerous Man, Qualities which no way recommended him to me ; so being honoured with a second Message from him, I, with an absolute *Sir, not I*, dismissed me back the cloudy Messenger.

But to return.

The next Day a most ugly squinting mean looking Fellow, whose good Cloaths made his Awkwardness but the more conspicuous, came in to buy some Prints ; his Mind was portray'd in his Countenance, where Impudence and Ignorance seemed to vie for Pre-eminence ; however, he spoke to me with great Civility, and perceiving, by his Accent, that he was an *Hibernian*, I asked him, how long he had been in *London* ? Curiosity led me into a great deal of Chat with him, and as he knew every great Family in *Ireland*, their Servants, at least, he was able to give me a good deal of Intelligence : I then enquired, whether Business, or Pleasure, had brought him to *London* ? He said, both, and pulling out his Pocket-Book, told me, he would surprize me ; I cannot say, indeed, but he did, for he shewed me Doctor *Swift's* Head, ingraved in Vellum, not in Size much larger than a small Locket, such as they wear in Rings, yet so extremely like the Original, that there was no Occasion to write the Name under it ; several more Pieces of

the same curious Work he shewed to me, and said he hoped to make his Fortune by them in *London*.

I told him, I was afraid he would be disappointed, as Painting and Statuary were the Taste of the *English* Nobility, beside this is Work more suited to Woman than a Man; if I could do it, it might turn to Account to me; upon which, of his own Accord, he begged I would pass his Works for mine, and that he would give me a third Part of the Profit arising from the Sale of them: he gave me to understand he very well knew who I was, and that our united Interest might be serviceable to each other, an Offer I did not reject.

As he had many fine Mantlings cut, he could very quickly insert the Arms, so I desired he would finish one for General *Ch—rch—ll*; he obeyed me, and I waited on the old Gentleman with it, and a few complimentary Lines, which I have now forgot. I sent in my Presents, and the General desired I might be shewn in; he was in a very magnificent Drawing-room, adorned with Stucco Work, the opposite Door opened into a Garden, full blown; — the General was seated on a rich Sopha, at a Table adorned with Dressing-plate: He desired I might sit down on a Sopha, opposite to him, and ordered his Servant to remove the

the Table, there were several silver Vases filled with Flowers, sweetly smelling round the Chamber, and, for my Part, I rather imagined I was in some *Asian* Palace, than a House in *Grovesnor-street*.

He thanked me for my Present, " But, " Madam, said he, it is to me quite useless, as all my House is Stucco Work ; " however, if you'll be so kind as to come " up Stairs with me, we may perhaps find " some Place, where a Nail may be driven " without Injury."

As the old Gentleman doubted I might possibly mistake his Meaning, he was going to explain himself ; upon which I took up the Picture, and, in very great Confusion, made my best Speed out of his House.

I had not walked above twenty Yards, when one of the General's Footmen overtook me, who told me, his Master was afraid I might fall in a Fever, if I walked in the Heat of so warm a Day, and therefore desired I would accept of a Guinea to pay my Chair ; I took it, and returned my Compliments.

As there was something humorous in the General's Behaviour, I addressed him the next Day in the following Lines :

To the Honourable General CH—RCH—LL.

FIVE Weeks, Great *Ch—rch—ll*, to
my Cost,
Cutting your Coat of Arms, I lost;
I por'd my Eyes, I soil'd my Raiment,
Not doubting of a gen'rous Payment,
When, well I wot, your whole Design
Was bent to quarter your's with mine.

Curse on your plaguy Stucco Work,
Sure, 'twas invented by some *Turk*,
To bid to Christian Art Defiance,
And overturn each beaut'ous Science;
No Nail, forsooth, their *Paste* must enter,
Would one were stuck in the Inventor!

But will a Chief of *Marlborough's*
Strain,
The Off'ring of the Muse disdain,
Or give her Reason to complain?

Should I be seiz'd by Bailiff's Setter,
What! must I say, that You're my Debtor?
Why, if they threat me with a Jail,
I'll surely send to You for Bail.

The

The Muse, and Hero, ne'er shou'd quar-
rel,

Our Bays thrives best beneath your Laurel:
Your Province is to shine in Fight,
But our's your noble Acts to write.

Achilles' Deeds had lost their Glory,
'Till famous made by *Homer's* Story;
Nor can You eternize your Name,
'Till We consign your Praise to Fame.

Want damps the Poet's genial Fire,
Bounty can Thoughts sublime inspire;
So, crusted o'er with Flint, and Clay,
The Di'mond scarce emits a Ray,
'Till, disencumber'd of the Mold,
Polish'd with Art, and set in Gold,
Resplendent Glory it displays,
And rivals *Phæbus'* Noontide Blaze.

I never received any Answer to these
Lines, but in a very short Time after, I
heard the General was dead.

I gave the young Man both his Coat of
Arms and the Guinea, so we resolved next
to address the Earl of *Stair*, then Veldt
Marshal.

It is a very great Loss to me, that by the
Ignorance of my Daughter, half of my
Writings were burned, for she never scrupled
if even the Fire was bad, to take a whole
Bundle of them to enliven it, but whether
this

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this may be any Loss to the World I must leave to their Judgment.

I can recollect but a very few Lines of the Poem to his Excellency, which were as follows :

To his Excellency the Earl of STAIR.

Arma virumque cano. Virg. *Æn.*

IN Rome, when all was Happiness, and Ease,

In the full Splendor of voluptuous Days,
Their Chiefs neglected, sought the silent Shade,

'Till loudly summon'd to their Country's Aid.

For when tempestuous Ills assault a Realm,
They call their ablest Pilot to the Helm ;
To guard their Freedom to preserve their Fame,

So God-like *Stair*, so *Cincinnatus* came !
Alike illustrious in their Country's Cause,
Guardians of dying Liberty, and Laws.

Accept, my Lord, this Off'ring, nor refuse

The varied Labours of an artless Muse :
No Herald can add Lustre to thy Birth,
No Poet justly praise thy noble Worth ;

Yet

Yet let the fair Attempt Acceptance find,
And my weak Sex plead to thy gen'rous
Mind ;
What Wonders then may I hereafter do ?
At once protected, and inspir'd by You !

A very fine young Gentleman undertook to deliver my Present to the Earl, and a Servant shewed me into a Parlour. In a few Minutes the Gentleman returned, and said my Lord desired to see me ; so he handed me up into a full Levee of Stars, and different coloured Ribbons. As I had never before been in so august an Assembly, I was ready to die with Shame, especially as there was not one of my own Sex to keep me in Countenance. My Lord in a most polite Manner thanked me for the Honour, as he termed it, I had done him, and the Noblemen, after his Example, seemed to contend who should praise me most, to which I could make no other Return than Courtesies and Blushes.

At length, the Earl of *Stair* said there was a Defect in the placing the Swords, which go through the Veldt Marshal's Arms, which he would willingly have altered ; and brought me out a Print of the Noblemen's Arms, who held the same Dignity in *France*, as a Pattern ; I told his Lordship I could easily alter it : " Pray then do, Madam,
" returned

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“ returned he, for I admire your Work so
 “ much, that I would willingly have it
 “ quite compleat.” Accordingly, it was
 finished, and the next Morning I waited on
 his Excellency with it, when, to my great
 Surprize, I had no Admission to him, but a
 Footman brought down five Guineas to
 me.

I was not a little surprized at this sudden
 Alteration in his Lordship’s Mind. But
 what had the Fool, who did the Work, done?
 truly told Major *Elliotson*, that I made a
 Hand of his Performances; he told my
 Lord, — who vexed at being imposed
 upon, sent me the Trifle above-mentioned,
 which was not, by any Means, a Payment
 for the Labour, and Curiosity of the Work,
 and what, from a Person of his Station, I
 should not have thought an extraordinary
 Reward even for the Lines.

So, finding the Folly of the Man, I
 would not undertake to dispose of any more
 cut Vellum, but left him to make his most
 of it.

I should never have thought this Fellow
 worth speaking of, only that my Husband has
 said he was my Gallant, not that I owe any
 Reverence or Honour to him, or regard
 what he can say any more than the idle
 Wind, but that I would not have such an
 Imputation laid on my Understanding, to
 say

say I made Choice of a low-born, ugly, illiterate Scoundrel. No, no; Mr. P——ⁿ may rest assured, that if I would have done him the Honour to exalt his Horn like that of an Unicorn, it should, at least, have been to me a *Cornu-Copia*.

But, alas! poor I, have been for many Years a *Noun Substantive*, obliged to stand alone, which, praise to the eternal Goodness! I have done, notwithstanding the various Efforts of my Enemies to destroy me, many of whom I have lived to triumph over, though they encompassed me on every Side, like so many Bulls of *Basan*, and though they should now kick up their Heels, like so many wild Asses in the Valley of *Geobron*, though the Dunces should make Songs of me, and though

Envy shou'd my fairest Deeds belie.

I think it would not afflict me, but that I should be able to convince them I had, at least, Patience, Hope, and Charity, sufficient to make them ashamed of the Injuries they have been weak and wicked enough to offer.

Because I would now fairly challenge my most malicious Foes to answer from the Tribunal of their own Conscience, what

* *

Provocation

Provocation I ever gave them to use me ill?

Whom have I defrauded, or belied? Nay, indeed, of whom have I spoke half the Evil, which it was in my Power to do? There are few Characters immaculate, and had I an Inclination to retaliate Injuries, I am, I believe, able enough to do it.

And sometimes one has so strong an Inclination to it, that it is hard to resist, especially when a Lady of Quality, that is by Marriage, for her Grandfather was a Smith at G——n, and kept the Sign of the Horse-Shoe there, as I have frequently heard the late Lord *Montgarret* relate, could, because I presumed to beg she would do me the Honour of being a Subscriber to me, a Privilege I thought a long Acquaintance might have entitled me to take, order my Maid to be kicked, and as I am really ashamed to use her Ladyship's Words on the Occasion, being much too indecent for a Repetition, methinks she might have spared them, especially to one who knew her too!

When she was a Maid, if she e'er was a Maid,

When afraid of a Man, if she e'er was afraid.

Heaven knows poor * * * * *
had but the Leavings of half the Town;
but he botched up a broken Reputation
with Matrimony, an admirable Salve!

As

As she was pleased to say, my Life could be nothing but a continued Series of ———, I am ashamed to speak the Word; ——— I dare say had it been so, she would have purchased my Book sooner than the Bible to indulge her private Meditations, especially if I had the wicked Art of painting up Vice in attractive Colours, as too many of our Female Writers have done to the Destruction of Thousands, amongst whom Mrs. Manly, and Mrs. Haywood deserve the foremost Rank.

But what extraordinary Passions these Ladies may have experienced I know not; far be such Knowledge from a modest Woman: Indeed Mrs. Haywood seems to have dropped her former luscious Stile, and, for Variety, presents us with the insipid: Her *Female Spectators* are a Collection of trite Stories, delivered to us in stale and worn-out Phrases, bless'd Revolution!

Yet, of the two, less dangerous is the
Offence,

To tire the Patience, than mislead the
Sense.

And here give me Leave to observe, that amongst the Ladies who have taken up the Pen, I never met with but two who deserved

served the Name of a *Writer*, the first is Madam *Dacier*, whose Learning Mr. *Pope*, while he is indebted to for all the Notes on *Homier*, endeavours to depreciate; the second is Mrs. *Catherine Philips*, the matchless *Orinda*, celebrated by Mr. *Cowly*, Lord *Orrery*, and all the Men of Genius who lived in her Time.

I think this incomparable Lady was one of the first Refiners of the *English* Numbers; Mr. *Cowly's*, though full of Wit, have somewhat harsh and uncouth in them, while her Sentiments are great, and virtuous; her Diction natural, easy, flowing, and harmonious.

Love she has wrote upon with Warmth, but then it was such as Angels might share in without injuring their original Purity. Her Elegy on her Husband's Daughter, is a Proof of the Excellency and Tenderness of her own Heart, rarely met with in a Stepmother; nor could I ever read it without Tears, a Proof it was wrote from her Heart.

And dear *Orinda*! gentle Shade! sweet Poet! Honour of thy Sex! Oh, if thou hast Power to do it, inspire me! for sure Thou art in the happy Bowers of Bliss, praising that eternal Goodness, who, to the Loss of this World, took Thee early away to adorn the Holiest of Holies, where in
Songs

Songs of Love, not ill-essay'd below, great
Saint Thou continuest to celebrate thy
Maker.

*Oh pour thy Spirit o'er my Lays,
Cælestial Melody inspire !*

*Sweet as the Royal Psalmist's Lyre,
That I with Thee may hymn his Praise.*

I cannot, except my own Countrywoman,
Mrs. Grierson, find out another female Writer,
whose Works are worth reading; she indeed
had a happy and well-improved Genius; I
remember she wrote a very fine Poem on
Bishop Berkley's Bermudian Scheme; the
Plan of it was this: She supposes that the
Night before St. Paul suffered, an Angel
appeared to comfort him with the future
Prospect of the Church, and the Growth of
Christianity; the Angel informs him that in
such a Year there shall be born in the western
Island a great Apostle, who shall be known
by this Token:

*'Tis he from Words first rids Philosophy,
And lays the dull material System by,
Affrights the daring Libertine to find
Naught round him, but the pure, all-holy
Mind;*

*The blushing Sinner from his Covert draws
Of Matters various Forms, and Motions
Laws,*

*His only Fortrefs from the Atheist takes,
And his atomic World at once unmakes.*

I am sorry that I cannot recollect any more of this Poem, or that the Prophecy contained in it of the Bishop's converting the *Indians* was, by the Avarice of some in Power frustrated; for surely he was well fitted for that holy Mission, having Learning, and Innocence in Perfection. Nor do I at all doubt that had this true Embassador of *Christ* been enabled to pursue the sacred Purpose of his Soul, but the Power of working Miracles would have been added to his other heavenly Gifts.

I have been accused of writing bitterly against the Clergy; I never did, but when they forgot their own High Calling; one *B——*, in particular, says, "that I *Alexander* the Copper-smith have done him much Wrong, in talking about Pence, and Farthings, and such small Coin, whereas he has within these two and twenty Years given me the Sum total of sixteen Pounds *Irish*, in hard Gold, out of which, had I been industrious, I might have made a comfortable Livelihood:" But I am afraid had he been in my Case he would have starved.

starved. Happy for him his Father was born before him, and *Happy is the Son whose Father is gone to the Devil*, is an old Proverb. But indeed, now my L——, I take it a little unkindly that you should declare in public, that you had me, as well as my Maid, *sur la Tapis*; methinks, though you are a Conjuror, you need not be a Blab: Oh, fy! is it thus you return my generous Passion? for, by your own Account, you did not pay me well; why *Juggy Macshane*, the Chairman's Wife, had a better Price from you, and you made her Son a Parson, while you quarrelled with mine for having his Button-holes worked in the best Taste, and told him, he must be very wicked to be guilty of such Extravagance: Were not you a little censorious, think you? Why you, though in the Vauward of your Youth, have yet a strong Dash of the Cox—b, and might excuse it in a Boy. Well, but as these said sixteen Pounds are so insisted on, I acknowledge to have received them, and should have thanked you, but that you sent me Word, in *London*, you did not know who I was, and that it was very impudent in me to apply to you for Charity; but lest you should again forget me, I am willing to be your sweet Remembrancer: And, oh! by our chaste Love, I conjure you to make my Husband a Dean, sure this

R 2 ——— you

you ought to do, when you say you made him a Cuckold ; besides, you know it was in that sweet Hope I yielded up my Heart ; then be a gentle Mediator between us, plead for me, as you did for the fair * Quaker, though Historians relate that your Lady would have been as well pleased had you been less assiduous in that Affair.

And now, I confess, I am a little spiteful, but it is only Jealousy ; send me an hundred Pounds to cure the Anguish your Infidelity has given me, and I will try to conquer my hopeless ill-star'd Passion !

Your L——'s Poetry in my Praise I never can forget, and as it would be a Loss to the World if any Part of so justly an admired Author's Works should be buried in Oblivion, take, oh World ! the following Lines :

*I scorn to drag about a Flame
For any She, that thinks my Love a Blame,
I'll take a Resolution to be free,
Without Return, I scorn to burn,
And oh ! I will be free.*

Your second Poem is, I confess, a little obscure, yet, no Doubt, may have much Meaning in it :

Ob

* Mrs. P——n.

*Oh thou,
Fow Fow, Bow Wough!*

And indeed, I remember another R——
R—— Author, who entertained some very
polite Company with the following Epitaph,
written as he assured us, by himself, it is
very laconic :

*Here lies Major Brady, and St. Comeen,
Sure such a Saint, and such a Major never
were seen.*

If the curious Reader cannot digest this
Heaven-born Verse, why let him be grami-
niverous, and chew the Cud.

But pray, my L——, don't you think it
was a little ill-judged of you to attack my
Character at the Expence of your own? and
to describe yourself as such a Cormorant in
Love that you must have two Females at
once, why, *Turk Gregory* never did such
Feats in Arms;

*Oh rav'nous Hell Kite!
Wou'dst thou have Maid, and Mistress,
At one fell * Swop?*

R 3

Truth

* This Word admits of various Readings, some call it
Swoop, some *Souse*, some *Swop*, which latter I chuse.

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Truth is, I am afraid this is apocryphal, and will win no Credit, especially as it was after your Expedition to the South of *France*, when you were ill of the ———, &c. &c. &c.

But prithee now, for I think I am entitled to talk a little familiarly to you; do not boast of Abilities, either of Mind or Body, which you never had; no Person living will believe you, any more than they would me, if I should tell them I had been a great Beauty, when they could see no Remains of it.

But you are, as the good Man said of *Nero*, a very Wag!

Hang it, why should you and I go to Logger-heads? Order your Equipage to drive here to Morrow Morning, and let's buss, as we used to do, and be Friends.

Otherwise I have two or three Pieces of the same Stuff, of which I have given you Samples at your Service.

Lord, 'tis a strange thing that all B—— will need be Authors, now would they avoid manifesting their Dulness, we the illiterate might conclude they were Men of profound Erudition, and that on that account they were advanced to their high Stations, but the Devil owes some of them a Shame, and is, when they do his Work, an excellent Paymaster; yet 'tis strange, this
same

same Dulness is not confined to them, it descends to their Sons, witness our celebrated Comedy, *The Suspicious Husband*, which, but for it's neither having one Character well drawn, any Plot, any thing like a Sentiment, and wrote too in a gallimawfry Stile, might be a good Performance; but as long as it is stamped with a Name, it passes current, though Sterling Nonsense.

But, my L—d B——, though I have digressed from you, yet see my Love! I return again: Ah, 'twas well I did not, even from Scripture, pick up an unfavoury Simile; I am much offended that you should say, when I was last at Shrift with your Holiness, that we had no better Accommodation for our Feast of Love, but a Carpet, whereas I insist on it that the Penance you enjoined me was as easy as a Down-bed could make it; so here I invalidate your Evidence in one Point, and the rest of your Accusation naturally falls to the Ground.

But being now tired of laughing at you, I'll tell you an *Arabian Tale*. There was a really generous Man, who built a fine Pavilion, to which were an hundred Openings; as the Poor had free Access to it, they were relieved by him at every Opening, and Avenue; they blessed his Goodness, and his Fame flew far.

There was in his Neighbourhood the Son of an old Miser, who was left immensely rich; he was of a sordid Temper, yet emulous of Praise, so he built such another Pavillion, and in like Manner distributed Alms; it so fortuned that one old Man attacked him seven times in the same Morning at seven of the Entrances, he met him again at the eighth, and asked for an Alms, at this he lost all Patience, and cried, "Did not I seven
" times relieve you?" "Ah, quoth the poor
" Man, Lord bless my Lord *Aboulcasem*, I
" have walked three hundred times round
" his Pavilion, been three hundred times
" relieved, and yet I am certain he does
" not know my Face.

So, to apply the Story, God bless my dear-loved Lord *Kingborough*, who gives Hundreds without blowing a Trumpet before his good Deeds, or defaming the Characters of those whom his Bounty blesses.

I have often been surprized at one of our C——s, which, to shew my Charity, I will insert.

O Lord, who alone workest great Marvels! send down upon our B——, and C—— the healthful Spirit of thy Grace.

Marvellous would it be indeed, if they had either *Health, Spirit, or Grace*; no Doubt
but

but the learned Compilers of the L—— had their own Reasons for this supernatural Invocation; but why nothing less than a Miracle should bless these, any more than any other Order of Men, I leave to some future Commentators, and hope they will oblige us with Annotations on this extraordinary Ejaculation.

I would not incur the Censure of the Cl—— so far as to give a Hint that they are not sound: No, no, many of them are, but then it is so sound as Things that are hollow, Impiety hath made a Feast of them, and now that their Bones are marrowless, their Blood is cold, and Speculation dwells not in their Eyes; they hate us Youth. Gorbellied K——, Bacon fed! ah, would we had the shaking of their Bags! I knew one of them who, without the least Study, wrote the following two elegant and learned Lines:

*Yon slanting Mountains glow with blue
Marine,*

*And yon cornuted Moon's two Horns give
shine.*

I know the Gentlemen had too much Modesty and Diffidence of their own superior Talents to give their Works to the Press, but I hope, as they are charitable, they won't

won't be displeased, as they are above making Money of their Performances, that I should, since they, though but little, serve to swell my Volume, and, no Doubt, will edify my Readers. I think I have nothing to boast of as a Writer, but a great Memory, for if I could not have retained *Shakespear*, *Milton*, &c. and the great Authors I have last mentioned, to give a Taste of their Wit, when I was myself at a Loss, I do not know how I could ever have compassed three Volumes of Memoirs.

Indeed if I had printed all the Poetry that has been sent to me for that Purpose, since I came to this Kingdom, it would have proved as odd a Medley as any thing ever yet exhibited to publick View; I suppose every one who fancied they had Wit, had a Mind to see how it would look in Print, but I must beg to be excused; though the learned Mr. *Timothy Ticle Picker* pressed very hard for a Place, it would be a strong Proof of my Vanity to insert his anti-sublime Compliments to me.

Another poetical Gentleman wrote me a long Letter in a Text Hand, which put me into a Palpitation of the Heart, as I was about that time threatened for certain scandalous Truths I had been guilty of relating, with some Law, and truly I hate that as much as *Sir John Falstaff* did Security; When

When I, in plain *English*, set down undeniable Facts, they menace me with Law, I would as lieve they should stop my Mouth with Ratsbane ; but I find I am like Sir *John*, not only witty myself, but am also the Occasion that Wit is in others ; there is not an Halfpenny Paper can peep it's Head out, but presently my Name must be dragged in by Head and Shoulders to grace it. But to the Letter : Having recovered my Spirits, I read it over, and found a great many Compliments, with a Promise that the profound Author would wait on me at Four o'Clock. I never thought of it till the Time appointed, when

The punctual Devil kept his Word.

I own I supposed he came to see if he could

*Convey out my Box of Hints by a Trick,
Sincerely believing he dealt with Old Nick.*

And I always suspect Falshood to lurk under a full Peruke. He just came in with a huge fat Man, as fat as Butter, with him, but would not stay, for which Reason I will not print his fond Letter, so, I think I am even with him. If I were any way given to be proud, I think I have a great deal of Reason to be so, since I cannot go any where,

where, as I am not very well known, but I hear some Piece of my own History, quite new; I am seen in this Place, and t'other Place, and say something mighty witty to be sure!

I do not wonder that Persons of Fortune, and Distinction of this Kingdom go to *England* to spend their Time and Estates, since here, be you as chaste as Ice, or pure as Snow, thou shalt not escape Calumny, especially among your half-bred, half-witted Gentry, but

*Let my unhappy Tale be falsely told
By the rash Young, or the ill-natur'd Old;
Let ev'ry Tongue it's various Censures
chuse,
Absolve with Coldness, or with Spite
accuse,
Fair Truth, at last, her radiant Beams
shall raise,
And, Malice vanquish'd, heighten Virtue's
Praise.*

Prior.

In *London* almost every one, in the middling State of Life, has some Employment or Diversion to kill their Time; and here it is the reverse, we are all Gentry, wherefore the Females have no Amusement but that of SLANDER.

Where

Where

*Rufa, with her Comb of Lead,
Whispers that Sappho's Hair is red.*

I should be very glad, 'ere they look for the Mote in my Eye, they would be pleased to pull the Beam out of their own. I could mention Numbers of these Scandal-mongers, who have said, "Oh Lord, may be she'll put us down in her *Memorials*!" But, go on, incorrigible Dunces, too contemptible for my Notice: All I shall beg of the *Men* is, never to believe any thing that is said of me by a *Woman*, as it is more than Four to One it is a Lie; but as the great *Milton's* Genius could even descend to Hell, so I think I must mention one Mrs. *Ir—d—ll*, who hearing that I got Money for my Work, a thing she could never do, exclaimed bitterly against me, nay, even kept her Bed for a Week on Account of it, and wrote two or three very stupid Papers against me; and though she could not shew her Wit, at least, shewed Envy, Malice, and all Uncharitableness. I know a very ingenious Gentleman, who, whenever he sees a Parcel of Females seated at their Tea, names the Chamber *Pandæ-*
monium;

monium; and Doctor Young, in one of his Satires, says,

*Tea, how I tremble at the dreadful Stream!
As Lethe fatal to the Love of Fame;
What Devastations on thy Banks are seen!
What Shades of mighty Names that once
have been?*

And I really cannot remember ever to have seen a Set of Ladies tipping this Liquor but Scandal strait ensued; ay, even amongst our new Teachers, commonly called *Moravians*, amongst whom I had, in *London*, the Misfortune to live, and whom, though they took themselves to be inspired, I really always believed to be under the Delusion of *Satan*.

One of the holy Sisters once told me the Devil inspired *Milton*, ay, and me into the Bargain; truly she did his infernal Majesty the greatest Honour he ever yet received, and I could not avoid thinking her either very ignorant, or very wicked; but I comforted myself with hoping that the former was her Fault, and that she did not know how heinous a Sin she committed, when she robbed the Maker of his Glory, and attributed his best Gifts and Graces to the common Enemy of Man. I think I might justly apply to these Sectaries Mr. *Pope's* Lines:

'Tis

'Tis your's a Bacon, and a Locke to
blame,

A Newton's Genius, and a Seraph's Flame;
But, oh! with One, Immortal One, dis-
pence

The Source of Newton's Light, and Bacon's
Sense!

Content each Emanation of his Fires,
That beams on Earth; each Science he in-
spires,

Each Art he prompts, each Charm he can
create,

Whate'er he gives, is giv'n for you to
hate:

Go on, by all divine in Man, unaw'd,
But learn, ye Dunces, not to mock your God.

I believe these Wretches would be very
proud of being persecuted; but our Gover-
nors, of the same Mind with the witty and
gallant Emperor * *Julian*, they will neither
hinder them to assemble, nor preach, any
more than he did the *Galileans*, unless they
preach Sedition, and then they come under
the Penalty of the Law.

Poor *Julian*, the Christians murdered
him, for not permitting them to murder each
other. St. *Gregory* the younger preaching
old St. *Gregory's* Funeral Sermon forty
Years after the Death of *Julian*, when one
would

* Vulgarly called the *Apostate*.

would have thought Resentment might be also dead, if he had any Cause for it, has these remarkable Words: " And now, says " he, here lies my Uncle dead, who delivered you from the Persecution of that " old Bull-burning Tyrant *Julian*; now, " who had a greater Hand in his Death than " my Uncle? for once, when he, and his " Captain of the Archers, came in to hear " Mass, had he not suddenly gone away, " my Uncle would have kicked him." The Translator says he had more Difficulty with this Passage than all the rest of the Work; for he would fain have had the kicking intended for the Captain of the Archers, not being able to conceive that the Emperor of the World should be afraid that an old Priest should kick him.

But the old Priest prophesied that such a Day this Apostate should die, and truly he took especial Care that his Prophecy should be fulfilled, by hiring one of the Emperor's own Soldiers to put him to Death.

I could say something more, why should I not, nay, out it must: I believe, if my favourite Apostle *St. Paul* had not behaved himself with more good Manners than our modern *New Lighters*, he would not have almost persuaded his Auditors to be Christians; how noble is his Answer on the Occasion?

But

But he was as remarkably a fine Gentleman as he was a Saint, a Martyr, and a Christian; like Doctor *Delany*, whose preaching goes even to the dividing of the Blood and Spirit. And let me here, dear Sir, beg you will fulfil a Promise you gave me many Years ago, that you would attend my last Moments; if I send to you, will you refuse to cheer a dying Sinner with Hope of Peace and Pardon; for the Doctrine of Damnation is now so universally received, that Half the World are cast into Despair.

These poor Enthusiasts used, in *London*, to steal every thing they could lay their Hands on from me, insomuch that, at last, they stole my one Pair of Shoes, and yet they brought Scripture Authority for Theft, for they said the Children of *Israel* borrowed *Jewels of Gold and Silver* of the *Egyptians*, which they ran away with, and they spoiled the *Egyptians*. I remember I once mentioned this Passage to Doctor *Delany*, who understanding *Hebrew* perfectly, turned over to it there, where it is very differently related: For the *Egyptians* finding so many Plagues brought on them, and particularly the Leprosy, with which these People were all infected, ordered them to depart, but they declared they would not go, unless their Hire was paid to them, and also so many Changes of Apparel, and Jewels of Gold given to support

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them in their Pilgrimage; how they behaved themselves in the Wilderness is so well set forth in the *Old Testament*, that it would puzzle a wiser Head than mine to know how they became the peculiar Favourites of an impartial and unprejudiced Deity.

Indeed it were to be wished that either this learned and excellent Divine, or some other of equal Abilities, if such may be found, would oblige the World with a new Translation of the *Old Testament*, since, as we now have it, it seems filled with Incongruities, Indencencies, and shocking Absurdities, such as the Holy Spirit could never have dictated, *whose Body is light, and whose Shadow Truth.*

I beg Pardon for this rambling Disgression, and hope the Divines will not censure me for it, as I only presume to give them Hints, which their superior Knowledge may improve upon,

And justify the Ways of God to Man.

For I intend not this Address to the ignorant Part of the Clergy, who would many of them be more fit to till the Earth, than plant or water the Gospel, but to the learned, just, and pious, that they may remove Scruples from weak Minds, *raise up those that are fallen, and finally, beat down Satan*
under

under our Feet, which God of his infinite Mercy enable them to do, through the Merits and Mediation of our Lord *Jesus Christ*.

But once more to return to my Shop. One Afternoon two young Gentlemen came into it, one of whom asked me for some Tea; I told him, I did not sell any, but that there was a Coffee-house next Door, where he might be supplied: He asked me, would not I give a Dish of Tea to a Friend, and Relation? I said, yes, with Pleasure: Why then, said he, this Gentleman is Dean Meade's Son, of *Cork*, and my Name is *Bl—nd—n*; as his Father was married to Brigadier Meade's Widow, I gave them an Invitation into the Parlour, and ordered some Tea to be got ready. I was really very glad to see any Person from *Ireland*, particularly those I was allied to, nor could I conceive that they came in that Manner only to insult a Woman, who never offended either of them; indeed, as for the Dean's Son, I must acquit him, for he did not affront me, but I took it ill he should bring with him a Fellow he knew designed it.

There was nothing gross, indecent, abusive, or unmannerly, which this Wretch did not, without the least Provocation, say to me, till, at length, though I am not really of a passionate Disposition, I lost all Pa-

tience, and thinking myself very much his Betters, I asked him, whether his Father continued to sell Butter-milk to the Poor at a Penny a Quart, with his own Hand, in a hard Season, when every other Person gave their's away.

Upon this he very politely threatened to kick me, but as he was then at a great Distance from his own Dunghill, and I am sure I give *Castle-Bl—nd—n* it's proper Title when I stile it one, It was not in the least intimidated, and only bade him go shew his Slaves how choleric he was, and

Make his Bondmen tremble.

And here excuse me, Sir, if I give your Picture to the World, when you make Love, if any but the leaden-darted Cupid ever touch'd your unworthy, groveling, base Heart, your Argument is that of a Highwayman's, you bring a loaded Pistol, clap it to the Fair One's Bosom, and say, "De-liver your Treasure, or you are dead."

Could not you have taken your ancient Father, the old Stick-picker's Advice, and have coaxed the Girl, and have given her a Cherry-coloured Top-knot? but you

Were

*Were like the haughty, hot-brain'd Spaniard,
Instead of Love, you brought a Poignard.*

And filthy as your rotten Leg, and more corrupted Soul, must have been every thing you could produce; for thou art the Quintessence of Filth, and I am weary of writing, when every thing base, every thing low, every thing insolent is the Theme, and all comprised in pretty Master *Jacky Blind-n.*

As I have mentioned an Attempt to write a Play, which

————— *Is a bold Pretence
To Learning, Genius, Wit, and Eloquence,*

I present my Readers with an Act of it, and would, with great Pleasure, finish it, but that I am certain our present Manager would never permit it to be played, merely because it was mine; for since his Prejudice against me, though how I incurred his Displeasure I know not, carried him so far as to say a Prologue I wrote for the King's Birth-Night was Blasphemy, I don't know but he may be ingenious enough to prove the Play to be High Treason, but lest my Readers

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should believe me capable of writing any thing like it, I present them with the Lines.

P R O L O G U E.

WHILE foreign Climes are rent with
 dire Alarms,
 The Shout of Battle, and the Clang of
 Arms,
Britannia, happy in her Monarch's Care,
 Enjoys at once the Fruits of Peace, and
 War;
 And while her Thunders o'er the Ocean
 roll,
 And spread her rising Fame from Pole, to
 Pole,
 Sees her victorious Fleets the Sea com-
 mand,
 And Plenty, Wealth, and Pleasure, bless the
 Land:
 Fair Science joyful, lifts her laurell'd Head,
 The Muses, in the Groves delighted tread;
 Or, near the Azure Fount, or haunted
 Spring,
 Their Great INSPIRER and PROTECTOR
 sing;
 The Woods, the Vales resound AUGUSTUS'
 Name,
 His glorious Actions, and immortal Fame!

Shou'd

Mrs. PILKINGTON. 263

Shou'd Heav'n th' inimitable *Shakespear*
raise

To breathe Historic Truth in tuneful Lays,
How wou'd the Poet in sublimer Strains
With GEORGE's Virtue elevate his Scenes?
Transmit his Wisdom to the future Age,
The noblest Theme that e'er adorn'd a
Stage!

Not the Great Ruler of the genial Year,
Whose radiant Beams the whole Creation
chear,

Inspires such Joy, such Rapture, such De-
light,

As swells each Bosom at their Monarch's
Sight!

Oh, may our Loyalty this Bliss deserve,
And Heav'n the Hero to our Hopes pre-
serve!

I believe none, but such a Conjurer as Mr.
Sh——n, would have found out Blas-
phemy in these Lines, and I am sorry he
did not say they were as flat Burglary too as
ever was committed; but he is a Judge, a
Gentleman, his Father was an Author, ay,
and a Parson! and for the signal Favours he
has bestowed on me, I return him these my
Acknowledgments!

However, at all Hazards, I'll venture to
stand the Test of publishing the Following,
because Mr. *Cibber* approved it.

S 4

THE

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THE
ROMAN FATHER.
A
TRAGEDY.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN. Appius Claudius,
Clodius,
Virginus,
Iccilius.
Officers, Servants, Attendants, &c.

WOMEN. Virginia.
Nurse.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Discovers Appius Claudius, and Clodius.

App. **T**HUS far has Force maintain'd
what Cunning won,
And haughty *Rome*, who with
indignant Rage,
Spurn'd off the regal Yoke, now lowly
bows

Beneath

Beneath my stronger Sway !
 While under Covert of chusing from the
Grecian Laws the best ;
 To guard her Freedom, and preserve her
 Power,
 I hold Laws, Offices, and all suspended ;
 And in their Place, I substitute my Will,
 The Rule of Action, and the sov'reign
 Guide :
 Say, *Clodius*, is it not a Master-piece of
 Art,
 To hold the *Romans* thus enslav'd ?
Clo. Sir, I applaud, and wonder at your
 Wisdom,
 As fair Success has crown'd your tow'ring
 Hopes :
 The bold Plebeians, who with restless Out-
 rage,
 For ever brawl'd at every Innovation,
 And urg'd the Senate for the Execution
 Of the *Agrarian* Law, now bless your
 Mercy,
 For Leave to live, and prate no more of
 Lands :
 The haughty Senators, stripp'd of their
 Pride,
 Retire, for Safety, to their native Fields,
 While the *Decemvirate* triumphant reign,
 Regardless of their Murmurs, or their
 Threats.

App. And still we mean to hold the
 Reins of Empire,

Nor

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Nor quit them but with Life, yet, oh vain
Boast!

Why do I fondly talk of ruling others?
Who am myself a Slave, a Woman's Slave!
The Captive of a fair enchanting Face,
Sweet, as the first young Blushes of the
Dawn,
Streaking with rosy Light the eastern Clouds;
Say, *Clodius*, hast thou seen the matchless
Maid,

The young *Virginia*?

Clo. Even now, my Lord, I met the bloom-
ing Maid, and traced her Footsteps
To *Dian's* sacred Fane, before whose Shrine
She bent in lowly Adoration down,
And look'd the chaste Divinity herself.

App. Oh *Venus*! wilt thou suffer such a
Wrong,
That heav'nly Beauty, radiant as thy own,
Shou'd, coldly obstinate, reject thy Power?

Clo. However, she may scorn the wanton
Goddeſs,
Her Son exerts his Empire o'er her Heart;
Her Nurse, whom to your Interest I have
brib'd,

By the persuasive Eloquence of Gold,
Gold, the prevailing Argument with Age,
Informs me, that *Virginus* has contracted
His youthful Daughter to the brave *Iccilius*,
The noblest Youth of the plebeian Order,
Not more renown'd for military Virtue

Than

Than for the polish'd Arts which soften
Life,

And win the Soul of Woman ; he to-mor-
row

In *Hymen's* Rites for ever joins the Fair.

App. Thy Tale has shot ten thousand
burning Arrows,

Which pierce with agonizing Pangs my
Soul :

Oh, should those Charms, which might
adorn a Throne,

Be doom'd to the Possession of a Wretch

So lowly born, the World might tax my
Justice ;

I must exalt them to their proper Sphere,

Where they shall shine, and bless the won-
d'ring World.

Clo. You would not wed her.

App. Ignorance ! thou know'st

I am already married, and our Law's

Still to preserve the noble Blood unmix'd,

Forbid Patricians, and Plebeians joining ;

And *Appius Claudius*, from the Greatest
sprung,

Shall never sully his illustrious Birth,

Or stoop beneath the Honour of his Race,

To mingle with the People : No, my *Clo-*
dus,

The Name of Marriage is the Bane of Plea-
sure,

And

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And Love should have no Tie, but Love
to bind it ;

Wives oft are haughty, insolent, and proud,
But sweet *Virginia*, fair, as Infant Nature,
And gentle, as the balmy Breath of Spring,
Shall be the Mistress of my soften'd Hours,
And bid them smile with ever-blooming
Pleasure ;

But, oh ! this sudden Marriage blasts my
Hopes !

Clo. Near as it seems, my active Thoughts
have schem'd

A Way to rob the Lover of his Bliss,
Only do you approve what I shall act,
And trust my Diligence to make her yours,
Or fall in the Attempt.

App. I know thee wise,
Active, and resolute ; talk not of falling,
Let but thy Skill assist my fond Desire,
And make my Power subservient to thy Will.

Clo. I see her, Sir, returning from the
Temple,

Led by the destin'd Bridegroom, best retire,
Lest Passion hurry you to Indiscretion,
Where Policy, and Craft must win our
Cause. [*Exeunt.*

ACT

ACT I. SCENE II.

Enter Iccilius, and Virginia.

Iccil. Was not that *Appius*? how the Ty-
rant ey'd me,
As if he mark'd me for his future Victim!
No Matter; let me but enjoy to Morrow,
Let me but live to call *Virginia* mine,
And I shall rest your Debtor, bount'ous
Gods!

Let what will come hereafter.

Virg. Alas! *Iccilius*, a thousand boding
Cares possess my Soul,
And Heaviness and Woe, unfelt before,
Hang deathful on my Heart; to-morrow,
saidst thou,
The Times are full of Violence and Blood,
The Hand of Tyranny destroys the Just,
Virtue is Guilt, when Wickedness is Judge;
Who then can, safely answer for a Moment,
Or tell where thou or I may be to-mor-
row?

Iccil. Lock'd in the Circle of each others
Arms,
And tasting ev'ry Transport, ev'ry Sweet,
Which *Hymen*, Guardian God of chaste De-
lights,
Profusely sheds to crown the happy Pair
By him in holy Union join'd for ever.

Virg.

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Virg. Believe me, were my Soul to form
a Wish,
And have that Wish indulg'd me by the
Gods,

For ever to converse with my *Iccilius*,
To listen to his Eloquence divine,
To learn his Wisdom, to return his Love
With tender Duty, Gratitude, and Truth,
Wou'd be the utmost Scope of my Desires.

Iccil. Transporting Sounds ! oh, may
those awful Pow'rs
Render *Iccilius* worthy to possess thee ;
But why, my Fair One ! this dejected
Look ?

This pining Care, this gloomy Discontent
Should only dwell in black and guilty Bo-
soms ;

Serenity of Soul, and tranquil Peace,
Should wait on spotless Innocence like thine.

Virg. A dreadful Vision has destroy'd that
Peace,
Sent as to warn me of approaching Danger,
Nor will the sad Remembrance leave my
Soul.

Iccil. Relate this horrid Dream, which
so affrights thee !

Virg. Last Night, when Sleep had spread
her downy Wings
O'er half Mankind, and lull'd my Cares to
Rest,

Methought

Methought I walk'd with thee, my dearest
 Lover!
 Thro' flow'ry Meads, in vernal Beauty
 dress'd,
 All Nature bloom'd, around us falling Streams,
 And warbling Birds in tuneful Confort
 join'd,
 Charming the Air with Melody divine!
 While ev'ry lovely Object of Delight
 Receiv'd new Lustre from *Iccilius*' Presence;
 Sudden the Forrest shook, and thro' the
 Trees,
 With dreadful Cries, rush'd forth, an hun-
 gry Lion,
 Who sought me for his Prey; I trembling
 fled
 To my lov'd Father's Arms; he drew his
 Poignard,
 And when I look'd he should have slain the
 Savage,
 With erring Fury plung'd it in my Heart;
 The piercing Anguish wak'd me, and the
 Terror
 Remain'd, when all the horrid Scene was
 vanish'd.
Iccil. This is the Mimicry of active
 Fancy,
 Who when the Senses are all charm'd to
 Rest,
 Presents herself to the Imagination

In

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In vary'd Figures, and unnumber'd Shapes;
These lesser Faculties disport at large,
When Reason, sov'reign Mistress of the
Soul,

O'er-wrought with Care, repairs herself by
Rest;

Believe me, 'tis no more, raise then thy
Eyes,

And bless *Lucilius* with their wonted Sweet-
ness:

My Care shall be to seek thy Godlike Fa-
ther,

And urge him to appoint the blissful Hour,

*Then smiling Love each Moment shall em-
ploy,*

Transporting Rapture, and ecstatic Joy.
[Exeunt.

Enter Virginius, solus.

Virg. How long, oh *Rome*! shall thy
majestic Head

Be crush'd by the tyrannic Hand of Power?
Oh Liberty! thou best Prerogative of Human-
kind,

How have the bloody *Decemvirs* defaced
Thy most transcendent Beauties? shall they
then

Rage unrestrain'd, and violate thy Charms
With

With bold Impunity? forbid it Heaven!
 No; there are yet among us some brave
 Spirits,
 Who dare assert the sacred Cause of Free-
 dom:
 Oh Father *Jove*, propitious smile upon us!
 And if my Life, or aught more dear than
 Life,
 May be a Sacrifice acceptable,
 Lo I devote it freely to the Cause,
 The glorious Cause of Liberty, and *Rome*!

Enter Iccilius, and Virginia.

Virg. Welcome *Iccilius*; Welcome, dear
Virginia,
 My Soul's Delight, my last remaining Com-
 fort;

Iccil. Oh! she was born to give transcen-
 dant Joy
 To her glad Father, and her raptur'd Lover;
 And all those outward Charms so heav'nly
 sweet,
 Are but an Emanation from thy Soul,
 Where ev'ry Beauty, Grace, and Virtue
 live;
 Since then your Approbation crowns my
 Love,
 And gives the matchless Virgin to my
 Wishes,

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I claim your Promise, that to-morrow's Sun
May see us one.

Virg. Auspicious may it rise upon your
Union,

Clear unclouded Days, and Nights of sweet
Repose for ever wait you.

I know when Love has wing'd the eager
Wish,

It flies impatient to the promis'd Joy,
Nor shall Delay retard your youthful Ardor;
Take her, *Iccilius*, from her Father's
Hand.—

Iccil. Thus kneeling I receive, and bless
your Bounty ;

Oh my *Virginia* ! but all Words are faint,
To paint the Ecstasy which swells my
Heart :

Nor Air, nor Light, nor Liberty, nor
Health,

To one long pin'd within a joyless Dun-
geon,

Are half so lovely, charming, sweet, or
welcome !

Enter Messenger.

Mess. An Officer from *Appius Claudius*,
Sir, demands Admittance.

Virg. Bid him enter.

Retire, my Child ; what can the Tyrant
want ?

[*Exit Virg.*
Officer.

Officer.

The *Decemvirate* Guardians of our State
Greet thee with Honour, and Respect, *Vir-*
ginius,

And signify by me their sacred Pleasure,
A Messenger is from the Camp arriv'd,
With Notice, that the *Capuans* have re-
volted ;

And to your Care, brave Veteran, they
trust

The Conduct of their Legions, on the In-
stant

Must you set forth, and thou, *Iccilius*, with
him.

Virg. Their Pleasures be obey'd, but this
is sudden.

Off. The Time cries Haste, delay not
then a Moment ;

May Victory and Fame attend your Arms.

[*Exit Off.*

Enter Virginia.

Virg. My Daughter, we must leave you,
instant Danger

Demands our Presence in the *Roman* Camp ;
Nay, do not weep, we shall not long be
absent,

Mean time thy Innocence shall rest in Safety
Beneath the friendly hospitable Roof

Of good *Iccilius'* Father. Do not weep,

T 2

I go

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I go to seek him, take a short Farewel,
And follow me. [Exit Virginius.

Iccilius and Virginia.

Iccil. Oh my lov'd *Virginia*! are all my
eager Longings,
Wishings, Hopes, defeated thus? now must
I leave you;

Now, oh 'tis a Pang too great to bear, and live!

Virg. Thus fade our Dreams of Happiness,
and Bliss,

Not that a short, or momentary Absence,
When our lov'd Country call'd thee to it's
Aid,

Cou'd shake my Temper; no, I oft with
Pride;

Have seen my Hero arm him for the
Field,

And only griev'd that my weak Sex denied
me

To share the glorious Toils, the noble Dan-
ger;

But now my sad presaging Heart assures me,
We part to meet no more.

Iccil. Oh softest Charmer!

Cease t' afflict me with a Thought so sad,
Lest, Coward-like, I stain my sacred Honour,
And, shunning Glory, and the dusty Field,
Remain for ever in *Virginia's* Arms;

For what are Trophies, Honours, Triumphs,
Spoils,

The

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Th' envy'd Pageant, and the People's Shout,
To the transporting Joys of mutual Love,
And Harmony of correspondent Souls?

Virg. No, my *Iccilius*, let not my fond
Fears

Betray thee into misbecoming Weakness;
I love thy Glory dearer than thy Person,
And wish thy Name enroll'd amongst the
foremost

Who arduous trod the steep Ascent to
Fame,

High on the Summit of a lofty Hill,
Encompass'd round with Danger, Toil, and
Death,

The Goddess stands, and holds the Victor
Wreath

Of ever-verdant Laurel! sacred Emblem

Of undecaying Virtue and Renown,

Who would not wish to gain the glorious
Prize,

And scorn the Danger, viewing the Re-
ward!

Iccil. Oh thou! well-worthy of the Ro-
man Name,

Not the chaste Fair, who swam the rapid
Tyber,

Nor she who fearless pierc'd her snowy
Bosom,

And with pure Blood wash'd out the fatal
Stain,

The brutal Tyrant gave her, e'er possess'd

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Such Dignity of Soul, such Fortitude,
Such Wisdom, or such Innocence as thine ;
Thy noble Arguments bent to persuade
Thy Lover hence, but charm him here more
strongly ;

I gaze with endless Admiration on thee,
And wonder at a Greatness so divine.

Virg. For ever cou'd I listen to thy Lan-
guage,
More chearing than the Breath of new-born
Spring,

When first her vernal Airs salute the Groves,
And wake to Life the Infant Blooms and
Flowers,

To deck her lovely Bosom, but no more,
Thy Duty calls thee to the Battle now.

[*Flourish.*

My Father waits you, the protecting Pow'r's
Conduct you forth, and bring you back in
Safety.

Iccil. Thy pious Pray'r shall charm down
Blessings on us,
And Love shall guard me for *Virginia's* Sake.

*Think with what fierce Impatience I shall
burn,*

*'Till to thy Arms triumphant I return ;
To bid thy Sighs, thy Tears, thy Anguish, cease,
And sooth thy gentle Soul to Love and
Peace.*

[*Exeunt.*

END OF THE ACT.

One

One Day, as I was in my Shop, a Gentleman, very richly dressed, told me, he had a Letter for me ; I received very it respectfully, but could not help smiling, when I found it was the Letter I wrote for *Tom Brush*, neatly copied and directed to me, and that, lest it should miscarry, he had brought it himself.

I said it was a very genteel Piece of Gallantry, and quite new. He told me he was going to his Seat in the County of *Surrey* the next Day, and gave me a very kind Invitation to pass the Remainder of the Summer there, but as he was a young, gay, single Gentleman, I did not hold it convenient.

Pray, Madam, said he, do you never go to the Opera ? No, really, Sir ; not but that I love Music, but it happens to be too expensive an Entertainment for me : Well then, Madam, returned he, I must insist on having the Honour of treating you to it ; on which he downright forced a Couple of Guineas on me, and making me promise to correspond with him till his Return to *London*, we parted.

Unfortunately I lost his Direction, and so had it not in my Power to keep my Word.

And I do assure my Readers I did not go to the Opera, wisely considering that two

Pound two would be of infinitely more Service to me than it could possibly be to Mr. Heydeigger.

But, alas! before the Return of Winter I had neither Shop, nor almost an Habitation; by what strange Reverse of Fortune I was again reduced to the utmost Calamity, and by what unexpected and signal Mercy delivered from it, must, as it is impossible for me to get it into the Compass of this Volume, be the Subject of a Third.

I should be highly ungrateful not to acknowledge the Favour and Bounty of the whole Body of the Nobility, Clergy, and Gentry of this Kingdom, whose Goodness, as it is my highest Pride to own, so it shall ever be my utmost Ambition to merit; and if their poor Servant can in the least contribute to their Entertainment, she shall think herself overpaid, or, to use my dear Mr. Cibber's Words:

*As for what's left of Life, if yet 'twill do,
'Tis at your Service pleas'd, while pleasing you.
But then mistake me not, when you've enough,
One thin Subscription shews all Parties off;
Or Truth in homely Proverb to advance,
I pipe no longer than you care to dance.*

But, oh my loved, honoured, and excellent Lord Kingborough! where shall I find
Words

Words adequate to the Sense I have of your Goodness, your unlimited Generosity? thou kind Preserver of mine, and my Son's Life!

*Did Eloquence divine adorn my Speaking,
Tho' ev'ry Muse, and ev'ry Grace should
crown me,
Why then, ev'n then, I should fall short
Of my Soul's Meaning.*

But as with You my Muse began, with You also she must end, yet not till I relate the following Story.

I saw in *London* the truly elegant and beautiful Speech of a certain great Man, not long since our supreme Governor here; I was really so charmed with it, that I wrote the following Lines, which I shewed to Mr. *Cibber*. As his Excellency was returned to *England*, Mr. *Cibber* was so well pleased with them that, as he was particularly intimate with him, he undertook to deliver them, and said he did not doubt but he would give me a handsome Reward; to give this Thesis plainer Proof I put it to the Test,

*To his Excellency the Earl of CHESTER-
FIELD.*

O THOU! to bind whose awful Brow
Triumphant Laurels joy to grow,
To

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To whom the Sons of Science bend,
As to the great inspiring Soul,
That brightens and informs the whole,
The Muses Patron, Judge, and Friend.

Never did *Britain's* King before,
A Substitute so noble find,
Nor ever yet deputed Pow'r
With such transcendent Lustre shin'd.

For when, to grace *Hibernia's* Throne,
The God-like *Chesterfield* was giv'n,
How did the joyful People own
Their Monarch's Love! the Care of
Heav'n?

On thy exalted * SPEECH their Senates hung,
And bless'd the Elocution of thy Tongue!

'Tis *Stanhope* can alone unty
The *Gordian* Knot of Policy,
He ev'ry Kingdom's Int'rest knows.
Were to his Care the World consign'd,
Th' Almighty's everlasting Mind
Might there secure his Trust repose.

Thy Genius, for all Stations fit,
The Reins of Empire knows to guide,
Nor less the sacred Realms of Wit
Acknowledge thee their Boast and Pride ;
So

* His Speech to both Houses of *Parliament*, in *Dublin*.

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So *Phæbus* rules the Chariot of the Day,
And charms the Groves with his melodious
Lay.

How did of late the Nations fear
Sickness, the Messenger of Fate,
Would take thee to thy native Sphere,
'Midst throned Gods to hold thy State.
We fear'd a Soul, so eminently wise,
Was call'd to grace th' Synod of the Skies.

But soon the Rose-lip'd Cherub Health,
Commission'd by the Pow'r Divine,
Restor'd *Britannia's* Dearest Wealth,
The Glory of her Patriot Line.
Oh may'st Thou long from better Worlds be
spar'd,
And late receive thy Virtues full Reward.

Ev'n I, whom many Grievs oppress,
Enraptur'd with thy flowing Strain,
A while forget my own Distress,
And Anguish ceases to complain ;
Such Charms to Heav'n-born Eloquence be-
long,
And such the magic Force of sacred Song.

I ought to have premised that just as I had
finished this Poem, *W—rsd—le* came in,
and

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and snatched it from me, saying, he would send it himself to his old Friend *Pb——p*. I could not get it from him, but as I remembered every Syllable of it, I wrote it in a better Hand than that rough Draught I had given to Mr. *Gibber*, and having the Honour of his Correction, who is a fair and candid Critic, sent it again to him.

W—rsd—le came in the Evening, told me that the Earl sent him many Thanks, and would be glad to see his old Friend.

Upon this I asked *W—rsd—le* to lend me Half a Crown to buy a Pair of Shoes, which he absolutely refusing, when he had convinced me he had fifty Guineas in his Pocket, I, though ill-shod, was obliged to rest contented.

Early next Morning I received from Mr. *Cibber* the following short Epistle :

MADAM,

THE Poetry of poor People, however it may rise in Value, always sinks in the Price ; what might in happier Hours have brought you ten Guineas for it's intrinsic Worth, is now reduced to two, which I desire you will come and receive from the Hand of

Your old humble Servant.

COLLEY CIBBER.

By

By this I found Mr. *W—rfd—le* had boasted of an Interest in his Excellency which he certainly never had, for who would have even given me that small Reward that had received the Poem before from another Hand, would they not have laughed at me?

I waited on Mr. *Cibber*, who told me he had given my Poem to his Excellency, with these Words: "That if he had not thought
" it beautiful he would not have taken the
" Liberty of presenting it to him."

" As Dinner, said he, was just brought
" up, my Lord put it into his Pocket. In
" the Evening I reminded him of it: He
" told me he was attacked by all the World
" with paultry Rhimes, which his L——p
" always best rewarded."

The next Day Mr. *Cibber* attacked his Excellency again, and asked him how he liked the Lines? Upon which he said, " Oh
" I had forgot, there's two Shillings for her,
" but don't put them into your Silver Pocket,
" lest you should make a Mistake, and pay
" your Chair with them: So here, Madam,
" are the two Guineas for you." As I was entirely indebted to Mr. *Cibber* for this Bounty I return my Acknowledgments to Him.

My dear Lord *Kingsborough*, I never should have related this Story, except by
way

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way of Contrast to your amiable Virtues ;
for I may justly say with *Swift* :

My fav'rite Lord is none of those,

*Who owe their Virtue to their Stations,
Or Characters to Dedications ;
His Worth, altho' a Poet said it
Before a Play, would lose no Credit ;
Nor Swift would dare deny him Wit,
Altho' to praise it I have writ.*

Just as I was writing about *W—rsd—le* a Gentleman brought me a Pamphlet, entitled, *A Parallel between Mrs. Pilkington and Mrs. Philips, written by an Oxford Scholar*, as he tells us, himself, starving in a Garret : Pray, Mr. Scholar, deal ingenuously, did not *W—rsd—le* hire you to write it, because he was indolent ; dull, I suppose you mean ; if he can write so much better than I, let him give the World a Proof of his Abilities ; but, it seems, he is discontented that I have not sufficiently exposed him : Why, let him have but a little Patience, and my Life on't, he shall have no Cause of Complaint on that Head ; but I cannot break in on the Order of Time so far as to give the World a second Act of him, yet

Unity

Unity of Time and Place, you know, Mr. Critic, must be observed, otherwise we must renounce the Stagyrte.

If you intend your Performance for a Satire on me, truly your Words are so clerkly couched, that I cannot find any Sting in them: You say I admired the Dean for being a Brute. *N. B.* you lie, and none, but a Vill—n would call him one; I admired his Charity, Wit, Sense, Taste, &c. and to say he had Passions which obscur'd for a while his shining and uncommon Excellencies, is no more than saying he was human, and consequently liable to Error.

Then you ask me, how I dare to mention Mr. *Pope*? Why truly, like *Drawcanfir*, all this I can do, because I dare: I never refused doing Justice to his poetical Merits, but all your Art will never persuade the World that he was not an envious Defamer of other Men's good Parts, and intolerably vain of his own: How does he boast of his Acquaintance with the Great, even to childish Folly; the late Earl of *Peterborough* could not divert himself with pruning a Tree in his Garden, but presently we are told of it in these high sounding, unharmonious Words:

And

*And he, whose Thunder storm'd th' Iberian
Lines,*

*Now forms my Quincunx, and now prunes
my Vines.*

Why, one would have thought he had hired
the Earl for a Gardener.

And as for his Gratitude, let that appear
by his Poem, called *Taste*, wherein he
abuses the late Duke of *Chandois* for his
Munificence to Writers, whereof take the
following Sample :

*His Wealth Lord Timon gloriously con-
founds,*

*Ask'd for a Groat, he gives an hundred
Pounds ;*

*Or, if three Ladies like a luckless Play,
Takes the whole House upon the Author's
Day.*

Was this any Defect in his Grace's Character,
especially in a poetical Eye ? No, surely ;
but I suppose Mr. *Pope* was angry, as he
was not a dramatic Writer, that his Grace
should bestow any Favour on them.

He then proceeds to ridicule his Grace's
Library, and the Grandeur and Magnifi-
cence of his Improvements.

And

*And when up ten steep Slopes you've drag'd
your Thighs,*

*Just at his Study-door he'll bless your
Eyes,*

*His Study! with what Authors it is
stor'd?*

*In Books, not Authors, curious is my
Lord.*

*To all their letter'd Backs he turns you
round,*

*These Aldus printed, these De Sewel
bound;*

*These, Sir, are Elziver's, and those as
good,*

*For all his Lordship knows but they are
Wood;*

*For Locke or Milton 'tis in vain to look,
These Shelves admit not any modern Book.*

I suppose, because he did not find his own
Works there, he resolv'd at all Hazards to
depreciate his Betters. Shall I proceed, or
have I said enough

*To thee, who hast not Ear, nor Eye, nor
Soul to comprehend it.*

And now how dare you to abuse my
Husband? Why, thou poor poultry Garet-

teer, thou starveling Bard ! if I have a Mind
to do it myself, what's that to you ?

The distant Trojan never injur'd thee.

Pope's Homer.

*And suppose I've a Mind for to drub,
Whose Bones is it, Sir, I must lick ?
At whose Expence is it, you Scrub ?
You are not to find me a Stick.*

Poor Creature ! and as you say you are in
Necessity, I hope you will be relieved, even
by putting together

Figures ill-pair'd, and Similes unlike :

Letty and Conny, pious, precious Pair !

I suppose this is an Allusion to *Nysus* and
Uriales, but prithee learn more Wit,

*Than to make ill-coupled Hounds
Drag different Ways in miry Grounds.*

For I am certain I never was a Match for
Mrs. *Philips*, either in Beauty or in Art,
in both of which she reigns unrivalled, and
I, as in Duty bound, give her the Pre-
eminence. But

I imagine

*I imagine this Oxonian sitting on his Bed,
One greasy Stocking round his Head,
While t'other he sits down to darn,
With Threads of different colour'd Yarn;
The Remnant of his last Night's Pot
On Embers plac'd, to make it hot;
But now if W—dale deign to drop
A Slice of Bread, or Mutton-chop,
Mounting, he writes, and writing, sings,
While, from beneath, all Grub-street
rings.*

Swift.

Ha! have I guessed right? thou wicked
Scribbler! that praisest the Worst best, and
Best worst; thou art just fit to nurture
Fools, and chronicle Small-beer!
Now to criticize on your wonderful Work:
In the first Place, you say all my Characters
are well drawn, easy, natural, and pictu-
resque; and yet after this high Compliment
that I have even made a dull Story entertain-
ing by the Force of a sparkling Wit, and
retentive Memory; why, presently after I
dwindle, by the Force of your Pen, into a
mere Dunce: And so though you promised
us a Parallel, you give us a Contrast; you are
a very witty Fellow, I assure you, and deal
much in the Surprizing. And so you do not

U 2 like

like my Poetry, there was no Thought of pleasing you when it was writ; but go to my Treasurer, tell him I order him to give you three hundred Kicks in private, and the Lord send you a better Taste! Hey-day, the Devil rides on a Fiddle-stick! fresh News arriv'd! all my Letters to *W—r/d—le* to be published, oh terrible! well, I hope he will publish every Poem that was enclosed in them, that I may come by my own again; let him return to me three Operas, twenty-five Odes, the Letters I wrote for him, the Poem which begins,

To distant Climes, while fond Cleora flies.

And then he has my full Leave to publish every Letter of mine that he thinks will serve his Purpose, but remember that if you and he should sit down, and out of your own Logger-heads write Nonsense, and offer it to the World as mine, I enter my *Caveat*, and will not adopt the spurious Issue! So here I quit ye, and upon mature Deliberation, am sorry I wasted so much Time, Paper, and Ink, on so contemptible a Subject as either of ye.

My Lord, I beg Pardon for so long digressing from my darling Theme, but it was almost impossible for me not to bestow *those Libellers a Lash*;

For,

*For, tho' tis hopeless to reclaim them,
Scorpion Rods perhaps may tame them.*

Swift.

And though it is not in reality worth while to pursue Grasshoppers, who die in a Season, yet while their Noise offends me, I cannot forbear it.

And, now my Lord, and oh! since you permit me to call you by that tender Name, my Friend, and let me add, my Guardian Angel, for surely, very excellent has thy Favour been to me, far surpassing that of Kindred, as you generously bid me name my Wish to you, and obtain it; and as I, broken with the Storms of Fortune, for I may truly say with Holy *David*, to my Creator,

*Even from my Youth up, thy Terrors have
I suffered with a troubled Mind, and thou
hast vexed me with all thy Storms.*

Have little to hope for on this Side Dissolution, and have no other Concern about parting with a Life, which has been but a continual Scene of Sorrow, except that of leaving my Son unprovided for: Let your

Favour extend to him, as your Station and Virtue must ever give you a powerful Interest ; use a Portion of it to get him some little Employment, or Place, which may give him Bread, when I no more want it.

I flatter myself he will not be entirely unworthy of your Goodness, as he is of a generous, humane, and grateful Disposition.

I must beg your Lordship's Pardon for praising my Son, which indeed, I should not do, but that both his Father and Mr. *A—e*, endeavoured all in their Power to injure his Character ; the latter of whom is since convinced he wronged him.

And here I must apologize for so long deferring the Publication of this Second Volume ; and as no Reason is so good as the true one, take it as follows:

When I came to *Ireland*, I took a House near *Bow-bridge*, as well for the Pleasure of a fine Air, as to keep retired from busy Tongues ; but, finding it was highly inconvenient to be at such a Distance from Printers, Stationers, &c. I took a First Floor in *Abbey-street*, and having my own Furniture, sent it there, with Orders to the Men to put up the Beds, which accordingly was done : When I came in the Evening to take Possession

session of my new Habitation, lo you! all my Furniture was torn down, and lying in Heaps in the Passage; when I demanded the Cause of this, I was told, the Reverend Doctor *J—n V—ey*, who, it seems, lodged in the House, had, by his own special Authority, commanded the Goods should be thrown into the Street, but the Landlord knowing himself liable to be called to an Account for what he had received, did not chuse to obey him in that Article.

Well, as my House was empty, I knew not where I, or my Child, could sleep that Night, but, as I was not ill-beloved in the Neighbourhood I left, I went back to it, where a good Woman gave me Share of her Bed, and her Husband, my Son, and two little Children of theirs, lay together.

Early next Morning, my Son took a Lodging for me in *Big-butter-lane*; my Goods, damaged as they were, were carried there, but, wot you well, the Parson followed them! Doctor *V—ey*, I mean, told the People I was a very bad Woman, and they were again left in the Passage, so when I came, there was no Entrance for me, and I was obliged to return to the Place from whence I came. *Mem.* I was forty Shillings out of Pocket by this pious Divine, I wish he would pay me.

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Next Day my Son took a Lodging for me in *Golden-lane*, where the Woman no sooner understood I was Doctor *Van Lewin's* Daughter, who, as she said, saved her Life, but she gladly accepted of me for a Lodger; but what with the Vexation of my Mind, and the Cold I had got, I fell into a violent Fever, and was for many Weeks confined to my Bed, till, by the Care and Skill of Doctor *Ould*, I was once more enabled to pursue my Work; and, as I am much indebted to his Humanity, I take this Opportunity of acknowledging it.

And now do I expect an Army of Critics to attack my poor Work, and to save them the Trouble, I will even do it myself, although I own the Task to be a little ungrateful. But, Mrs. *Pilkington*, notwithstanding the Regard and Affection which I really have for you, I must tell you what the World says of you; but however, I will give you fair Play, and allow you to make the best Defence you can for yourself: Suppose you and I enter into a Dialogue, I being the Accuser, begin: Madam, your Story has nothing in it, either new or entertaining; the Occurrences are common, trivial, and such as happen every Day; your Vanity is intolerable, your Style borrowed from *Milton*, *Shakespear*, and *Swift*, whom
you

you pretend to describe, though you never knew him; you tell us a Story of his Beef being over-roasted, and another of a mangy Dog, fine Themes truly! for my Part, I wonder you ever got a Shilling for your curious Performance; I am sure it is a Proof of the Stupidity of the *Bæotians*, who, though they have still done you the Honour to advertise in every Paper, that you were not a Dunce, proved themselves to be little better for taking so much Notice of you.

Myself. Hold, hold, you charge me so fast you do not give me Leave to reply; to your first Article I plead guilty, my Story is dull enough, it was therefore I strove to embellish it with such poetical Ornaments, as I could beg, borrow, or steal: I have known a Gentleman write a *Latin* Poem, and every Line of it was borrowed from the Classics, yet this was esteemed a Beauty in him; why then should it be deemed a Fault in your humble Servant? Had I not an equal Right to make free with *Milton*, *Swift*, and *Shakespear*, as he had with *Virgil* and *Horace*.

I. O Lud, lud, why the best Part of your first Volume, is that which you wrote from yourself, without these Auxiliaries.

Myself. Oh, upon my Word you compliment now.

I. Truly,

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I. Truly, I did not intend it, but we would rather have some of your own Stuff.

Myself. Why I must bring you a Simile from what I do not much deal in, that is, Needle-work; do not Ladies buy coarse Canvas, and work thereon, Fruits, Flowers, Trees, all Summer, and all Autumn's Pride? and should we say the Canvas would have been better without the Artift's curious Embroidery, the same will hold in Painting.

I. O come, do not think to put us off at this Rate, you give us Quotation on Quotation; why, we know the Works of other Writers, and expected something entirely new from your superior Pen.

Myself. I am sorry it is not in my Power to oblige you, but Kings and Prophets, who lived before me, have declared, there was nothing new under the Sun.

I. But you shew no Reverence, either to Ermin, Crape, or Lawn.

Myself. O I really do, when the Wearers deserve them; but I hope you would not have me pay Homage to the Things themselves? Why then, I may go and kneel down to all the Goods in the Shops, because, as the Author of *The Tale of a Tub*, says, in them we live, move, and have our Being.

I. But have you no farther Regard to Station? Is your licentious Pen to lash all
Orders

Orders and Degrees of People? Are you to indulge your laughing, and lashing Humour, at every Bodies Expence.

Myself. Why, sure I have a Right to it; have they not laughed and lashed me round? This is but a Retaliation, they were the first Aggressors; no Person who did not deserve a Stripe, ever got one from me: Is Station a Privilege for doing every Thing Evil with Impunity? If so, let *Satan* on his burning Throne be honoured!

I. Well, upon my Word, Mrs. *Pilking-ton*, I am weary of your Arguments; you seem resolved to get the better of me, and that my Readers may always be assured I will do, when I am both Plaintiff and Defendant.

And I assure my Readers, that if my Third Volume is not filled with more surprising Events, and infinitely more entertaining than either of the foregoing, I will for ever quit my Magic Art, and

*Deeper than did ever Plummet sound,
I'll drown my Book.*

Shakespear.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

Mrs. Pickington. 299

Order and Dignity of People? Are you to
exchange your language, and holding them out,
in every honest expense.

Why, then, I have a right to it;
have they not injured and falsified me?
This is but a question, they were the first
to injure me; no person who did not deserve
a share, even for one from me: is station
a privilege for doing every thing evil with
impunity? If so, let Satan on his burning
throne be honoured!

A Well, upon my Word, Mrs. Pickington,
and I am weary of your Arguments; you
seem resolved to let the heat of me, and
that my Readers may always be assured I
will do, when I am both I thank and De-
stitute.

And I assure my Readers, that if my
Third Volume is not filled with more in-
teresting Events, and infinitely more inter-
esting than either of the foregoing, I will
for ever quit my Magic Art, and

Deeper than this ever Thought found,
I'll draw the Book.
?back?at.

END of the Second Volume.



